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EMAIL Email Bizarre@blackthorncommunications.com or contact Mandatron directly at Mandatron@blackthorncommunications.com

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BIZARRE

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EDITED BY TOM BROADBENT

PHOTO ASSAULT

THE WORLD'S MOST
EXTREME
CLOSE-UPS!



CLUNK CLICK EVERY TRIP

CHINA If you ever feel as if your personal freedom is under attack as you're obliged by law to wear a seat belt, remember what happened to this melancholy lady in Guiyang, Guizhou province, who ended up wearing her minivan as a necklace. The unnamed woman was thrown forward when her vehicle crashed into the back of a lorry – and as she'd forgotten to fasten her safety belt, the collision smashed her skull through the windscreen. Firemen attending the scene had to widen the hole so that the lady could slide free, but we're delighted to report that, despite her splitting headache, she suffered no long-term damage, and her male companion who was at the wheel also lived to tell the tale.

PICTURE: HAP / QUIRKY CHINA NEWS / REX FEATURES





HUMAN MOBILE

SOUTH AFRICA In *Bizarre 206* we introduced you to *On Tender Hooks*, the new documentary by Kate Shenton that takes you behind the scenes of the European suspension scene. And if you're hungry for more suspension thrills, check out this hardcore hooking. These pictures were taken during the first ever four-person suspension in South Africa, where four skeleton-faced body modders from the Anti-Gravity Suspension Crew hung high above the crowds during the Cool Inc Tattoo Expo in Johannesburg. As well as being South Africa's first four-person suspension, the team also set records for the country's first four-person mobile, and longest hang at just over 30 minutes.

PICTURES: PHILLIP LENNON / CORAL TREE FILMS © 2012







FACES OF DEATH

MEXICO These horrific corpses are just two of almost 120 bodies on display at El Museo De Las Momias (The Mummies' Museum) in Guanajuato, Mexico. From the late 1800s until 1958, relatives of the deceased were expected to pay a burial tax in order to keep the bodies of their dead relatives interred in Guanajuato's largest cemetery. However, if the tax wasn't paid, the bodies were unceremoniously dug up and destroyed. As chance would have it, around two per cent of bodies buried in Guanajuato were naturally mummified, and wily grave diggers soon realised that they could charge tourists a few pesos to view the desiccated corpses. Today, El Museo De Las Momias has become one of Mexico's most popular tourist attractions, and its mummies are fascinating as most were the victims of a cholera outbreak in 1833, and so were hastily entombed wearing their normal clothes. It's also clear that a handful of unfortunate souls were buried alive in the haste to dispose of bodies as they piled up during the year-long epidemic.

PICTURES: TOM@BLACKTHORNCOMMUNICATIONS.COM

THE GRINDER

Your monthly mash-up of NEWS, VIEWS, OOZE and OOHS!

TAPPU!

CELEBRATING INK EXCELLENCE

New budget-priced iPhone app featuring the world's greatest ink gets the *Bizarre* seal of approval

A NEW APP CELEBRATING THE GREATEST

ink from around the world has just hit the iPhone App Store... and *Bizarre* loves it!

Tappu! Tattoo Studio Volume 1 features over 500 stunning photos from the British and European convention scene, and we've spotted loads of *Bizarre* readers in the galleries, proudly flaunting their beloved ink.

When viewing *Tappu!*'s razor-sharp pics you can zoom in to take a closer look at all the designs, and even share your favourite images with your friends via Facebook and Twitter, which makes this exciting new app one of the most fun and engaging ways we've ever seen to view body art.

In addition to its sprawling gallery of photos – which feels like a book of striking tattoo flash in the palm of your hand, and will provide inspiration for anyone going under the needle – the app also features exclusive interviews with some of the world's most famous artists, including Angelique Houtkamp from Holland, Mike DeVries and Jesse Smith from the US, French ink legend Tin-Tin, and the UK's own Deryn Twelve and Jason Butcher.

In addition to the artist interviews, the *Tappu!* app also includes detailed histories of six of the world's most popular tattoo styles

– black and grey, cartoon, Far East, old school, portrait and geometric – which will give ink fans invaluable info on how key tattoo styles evolved. Unclear about black and grey ink's criminal roots in the US penal system? Unsure how Far East designs first became popular in the West? Don't know where cartoon ink originated

Tappu! is one of the best ways we've ever seen to view body art

from in the early 1900s? Then *Tappu!*'s potted history lessons will help you become an instant body art expert.

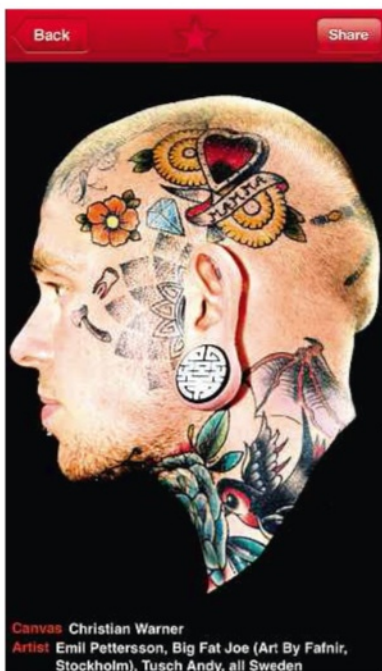
Part digital magazine, part photo gallery, *Tappu!* feels like a breath of fresh air in the App Store as it delivers a slick, high-quality experience, and is leagues ahead of other tattoo apps doing the rounds. And the best thing is that it's only 69p. →



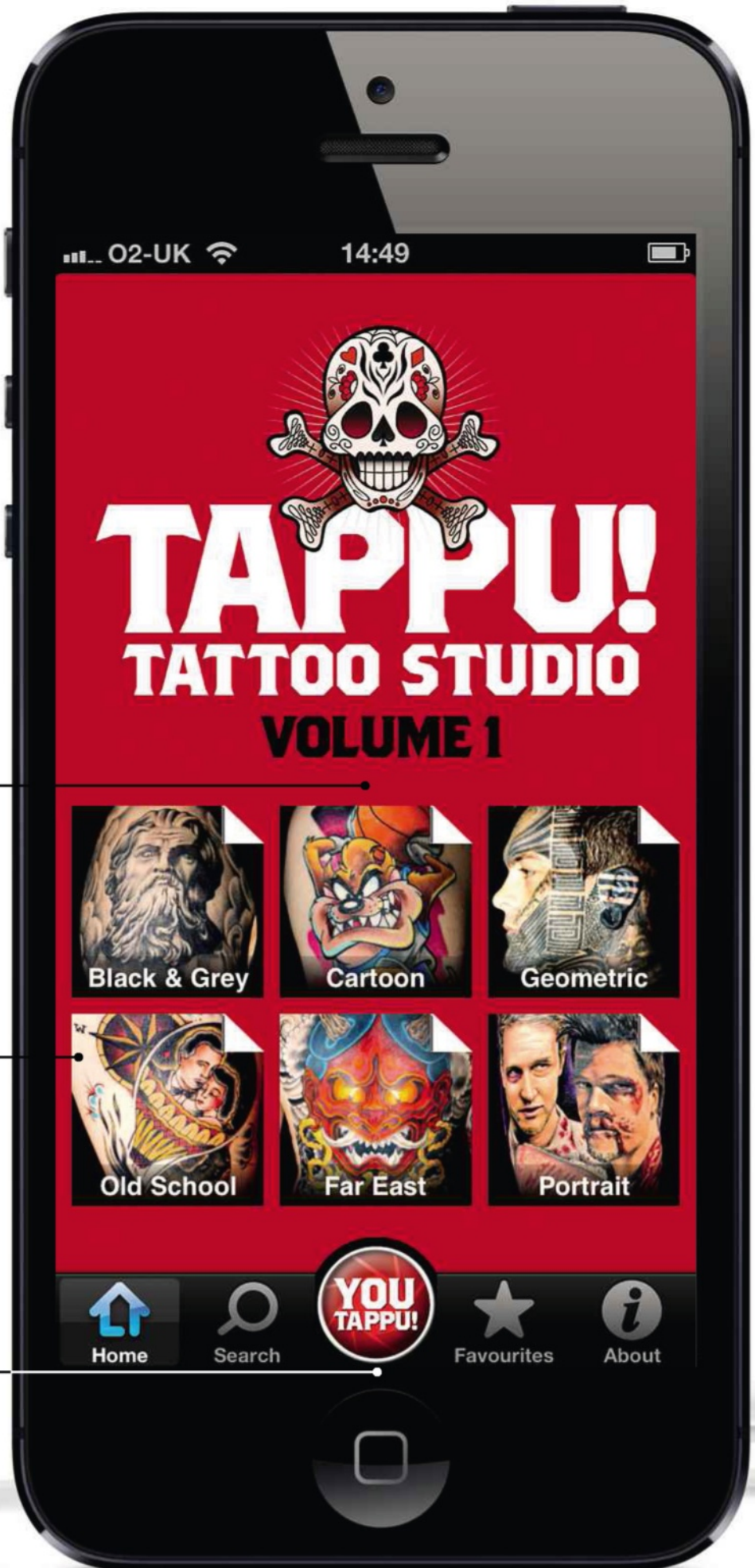
Using the YOU TAPPU! camera, you can send photos of your precious body art directly to the team that runs the *Tappu!* website – Tappu.co.uk – and be in with a chance of winning prizes for your incredible ink



Each category in *Tappu!* features an interview with an expert in a popular ink style. From Jesse Smith to Angelique Houtkamp, and from Deryn Twelve to Tin-Tin, these interviews will take you under the skin of the world's most renowned artists to find out more about their lives, their inspirations, and how they landed their dream job. Each profile also features a sprawling gallery of the artist's best work



Each of the six main galleries in *Tappu!* feature dozens of tattoo photos taken at the biggest British and European conventions, and we've spotted loads of *Bizarre* readers in the mix. Download the app and see if you can spot your ink!



JOIN THE CLUB

As well as giving tattoo fans plenty of pictures and text to pore over, *Tappu!* is also aiming to build a community of tattoo fans across the world who want to show off their ink and keep up to date with the latest body art news and views.

Using the app's YOU TAPPU! camera function, users can send photos of their ink directly to the team that runs the *Tappu!* website, where the best submissions will be uploaded every day. The best tattoos supplied via *Tappu!* will also be featured regularly on the *Tappu!* Facebook page and Twitter feed – and could potentially feature in future

The best tattoos uploaded via Tappu! win prizes

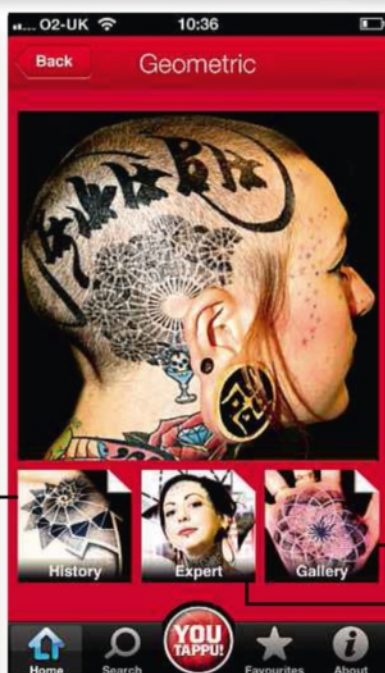
releases in the app series – so it's a great way to connect with other tattoo fans, share stunning works of body art with your friends, and showcase your ink to a global audience.

And as the *Tappu!* team will be awarding mystery prizes to the best tattoos – and the Tappu.co.uk site will also be regularly updated with body art news, convention reports and

exclusive features – there's never been a better time to get your tats out.

Tappu! is currently available on iPhone, but an Android version is planned for release in December 2013. Stay tuned to *Bizarre* and we'll let you know when the Android version ships. But if you've got an iPhone, make sure to swing by the App Store and be one of the first to join the *Tappu!* revolution.

Find *Tappu! Tattoo Studio Volume 1* on the Apple App Store, where it costs only 69p to download. You can also check out the *Tappu!* website at Tappu.co.uk, and find *Tappu!* on Facebook (search for 'Tappu Tattoo Studio') and Twitter, @TappuTattoo



1) When you tap the 'History' button, you'll be able to read a short, sharp feature that gives you background on how different ink styles evolved

2) The 'Expert' button reveals interviews with six of the world's most renowned tattoo artists

3) Tap the 'Gallery' button and you'll be able to see dozens of high-resolution photos of the best tattoos from the UK and European convention scene. Zoom in to take a closer look at each design... Tap the photo to see who's wearing the ink, and which artist did the work... Hit the 'Share' button to show your friends... it's a brilliant way to look at and appreciate tattoo art



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DEATH OF A KILLER

The notorious Night Stalker dies while serving his sentence on death row

ON FRIDAY 7 JUNE, A FACE THAT HAUNTED nightmares across the United States in the 1980s hit the headlines one last time when notorious serial killer, Richard Ramirez, died as he awaited execution on California's death row.

According to the coroner's report, Ramirez – who was nicknamed the Night Stalker – died aged 53 due to complications from B-cell lymphoma. He also showed symptoms of hepatitis C, a condition that harms the liver, and chronic substance abuse.

Ramirez was convicted in 1989 of killing 13 people during his reign of terror in Los Angeles,

and at the time of his death had served over 23 years at San Quentin State Prison.

During his mid-80s rampage, Ramirez's modus operandi varied. Although he often attacked lone targets, he also turned his murderous attention to elderly couples, who he'd brutally attack before finishing them off with a gunshot, by slitting their throats, or by beating them with a hammer.

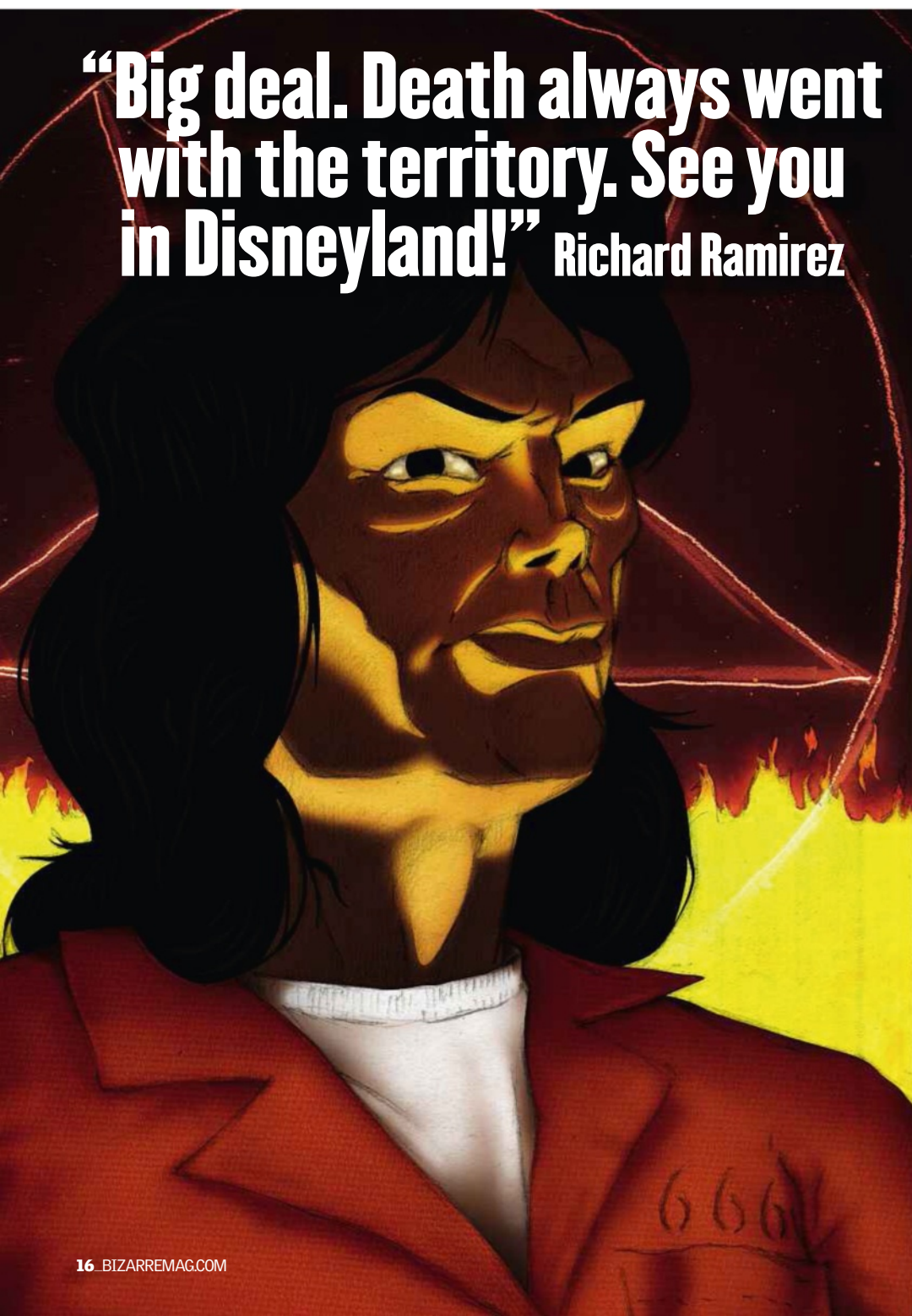
In a more gruesome twist, Ramirez's atrocities also included gouging one victim's eyes out and keeping them as a trophy, and sexually abusing a child. He was famous for

drawing satanic symbols at the scene of many of his crimes, and at his trial he scrawled a pentagram on the palm of his hand, which he cockily flashed at photographers.

During media coverage of his conviction, Ramirez's swaggering attitude and brooding good looks attracted a large cult following.

While in prison Ramirez exchanged letters with many of these 'fans', and in 1996 he married a freelance magazine editor he'd corresponded with. At the time of his death Ramirez was separated from his wife, but was engaged to a 23-year-old writer. **Amanda Coban**

“Big deal. Death always went with the territory. See you in Disneyland!” Richard Ramirez



ARTISTS!

LISTEN UP! WE WANT TO SEE YOUR MASTERPIECES OF MASS MURDERERS IN THE MAGAZINE...

It's been a while since the sadistic stranglers, slashers and slayers we know you sickos love to read about have been splashed across the pages of *Bizarre*. And as we're so proud of our readers' twisted talents, we want to showcase **YOUR** interpretations of the killers that you think should be included in an upcoming *Bizarre* feature. This is your chance to showcase your artistic skills, and tell us which ruthless rippers and crazy cannibals you want to read about.

To show you what we're looking for, check out this chilling portrait of Richard Ramirez (left) by the super-talented Michael Dee from the US, whose work was previously featured on our Readers' Art pages in *Bizarre* 204. See more of Michael's stuff at Cargocollective.com/michaeldee

HERE'S HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR DEPICTIONS OF THE MOST DEPRAVED MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL TIME...

If you're sending a scan or digital file, it must be high resolution and suitable for print. Stick it in an email to Mandatron@blackthorncommunications.com with SERIAL KILLER ART in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, the name of the killer you've portrayed, and your reasons for choosing them. Alternatively, post your pieces to **Mandatron's Artworks Of Evil, Bizarre, PO Box 59844, London, SW14 9BH**. It's unlikely you'll get the art work back again, so send a duplicate! **Deadline is 20 October.**



LONDON CALLING

The 9th International London Tattoo Convention is just around the corner. See you there from 27-29 September!

TEAM BIZARRE ISN'T JUST A LITTLE bit excited about this year's London Tattoo Convention... we've had a tingle in our private places for months just thinking about it!

From 27-29 September, Christmas will come early for the modified masses as an army of ink enthusiasts flocks to Tobacco Dock for a weekend of fun and frolics. With over 250 jaw-dropping tattooists from around the world, you can expect stunning displays by ink experts everywhere you turn – and you may even spot tattoo TV personalities such as Tatu Baby from the popular US show *Ink Master*, or Ami James from *NYC Ink*.

The main stage is going to host performances from The Nerdy Stripper, the fiery Fuel Girls and *Bizarre* cover stars Elegy Ellem and Cervena Fox, while alt.hotties Ellis Cooper and Hollie Hutton plan to be at the convention signing their 2014 calendars. Deep in the darkness of Vince Ray's Voodoo Crypt you'll even have a chance to see the man himself play with his band, The Boneshakers, as well as a special acoustic set from Saturday's big headliners, Huey And The New Yorkers, featuring Huey Morgan of Fun Lovin' Criminals fame.

The Dock will also be heaving with traders selling quality wares, with everything from Gothic jewellery to retro treats, and from dark art to piles of tattoo-inspired clothing.

As if all that wasn't enough, a series of exciting exhibitions are also planned for the weekend, including fascinating displays from the Amsterdam Tattoo Museum where you can see vintage photography and flash designs from the 1950s. And for those with more contemporary tastes, you can also check out *By All Means Necessary* – a rockin' project in which a series of artists showcase designs inspired by their favourite bands, all displayed on set-scale square canvases.

If you haven't already 'liked' the London Tattoo Convention's Facebook page, followed them on Twitter or signed up to their newsletter, do so now to avoid missing regular posts of mind-blowing body art! And don't forget to say "hello" if you spot Team *Bizarre* – they'll be in the Jamaica Inn, supping cold cider and calling it "research"...

For all the information you need, head to TheLondonTattooConvention.com. Also see Twitter [@LondonTattooCon](https://twitter.com/LondonTattooCon), or find the event on Facebook by searching for 'London Tattoo Convention (Official Page)'



Six pages of the sexiest alt.models,
freakiest art and best body mods!

HOTSHOTS >GIRLS

WELCOME TO THE JUNG-LE

Bizarre has fun 'n' games with
glorious tinglesnatch Leah Jung

WORDS **ALIX FOX**
PHOTOS **TINA PELECH AT TMD PHOTOGRAPHY**
HAIR & MAKE-UP **THE TREMANTE SISTERS**

Leah Jung's job title contains more slashes than your typical *Bizarre* reader's DVD library does slashes. The New Yorker is a professional singer / songwriter / model / actress and writer to boot – she pens a column for Norwegian tattoo mag *Ink Style*, and is about to start scribbling for a horror publication called *Dark Discoveries*. While trying not to be blinded by hair so dazzlingly blonde it probably ought to be viewed through a little hole in a piece of card, as you would a solar eclipse, we asked the multi-talented turbobabe a sticky handful of questions...

What's the grossest thing you've ever done in your life?

I helped an osteologist (someone who studies bones; not the same as an Alixfoxist, someone who studies men's badoinging crotches) clean the skin off the skull of a dead foetus. It was

fascinating. Also, back in college, me and a close group of friends played a game where we'd challenge each other to find the most disturbing, sickening thing possible on the Internet. We'd sit around and watch the week's selections, and whoever looked away first had to buy the beer that night. I never lost. I can watch mutilated corpses and bestiality all day long without flinching. That's pretty gross of me, but I don't care.

You share a name with Carl Jung, the psychologist who developed the concepts of extroverted and introverted people. Is there a particular psychological topic that you find intriguing?

I majored in relationship counselling as a student, so I find the human brain endlessly interesting. I've read a lot of Carl Jung. Despite the attention I get from modelling, I've learned that I'm the textbook definition of an introvert. There is even some speculation that Carl Jung is related to my family. He was known to engage in open relationships with

many women throughout Europe in the early 1900s. My dad immigrated to New York in the 1950s...

In the spirit of staying Jung at heart, *Bizarre* are going to make three of your most ridiculous childhood wishes come true. What do you choose?

1. To kiss Mikey Walsh from *The Goonies*, despite his braces.
2. To possess instantly re-generating hair, akin to that of 'Growin' Pretty Hair Barbie'.
3. To have a chalk door (like in *Beetlejuice*) under my bed (like in *Little Monsters*) that leads to a city made of cardboard, and all the friendly creatures living there look like the Flying Spaghetti Monster.

Obviously, I didn't know who FSM was when I was little (he's the deity of Pastafarianism, a movement that affectionately mocks religion and opposes the teaching of creationism in schools) but that's what the monsters looked like in my daydreams.



“I’VE LEARNED THAT I AM THE TEXTBOOK DEFINITION OF INTROVERT”

Apart from in their dreams, where can *Bizarre* readers see you?

Look out for me making a cameo appearance in the recent Evian ‘Baby & Me’ commercial, and watch out for my new EP – I’m about a third of the way through writing and recording it. It’s jazzy, emotive, and – excitingly – has already caught the attention of at least one very important person. In October I’ll be in Las Vegas to have the incredible ink artist Carl Grace work on my epic back tattoo. After that? World domination, of course. If you could see the conviction in my face when I say that, you’d certainly think I was insane and delusional...

Well, the Flying Spaghetti Monster only knows what you’d think if you could see *our* mugs, lass...

Not ready to leave Leah? Then feed your Jung-kie addiction by heading to Leahjung.com and [Facebook.com/leahjung.info](https://www.facebook.com/leahjung.info)
Hear her music at [Soundcloud.com/leahmylove](https://www.soundcloud.com/leahmylove)



HOTSHOTS > DARK ART

HOLDING ON FOR USHIRO 'TIL THE MORNIN' LIGHT

Edwin Ushiro's luminous, nostalgic art works feature more layers than a bald sphinx cat would wear to have a snowball fight

“One of the most unusual projects I’ve ever worked on? Hmmmm... I have been known to use my colour-matching skills to paint stains out of carpets!” laughs Edwin Ushiro, an artist who – speaking of underfoot surfaces – creates works likely to floor you with their glowing, radiant nature and shimmering, spellbinding depiction of dappled light; a quality achieved via a multi-step layering process involving transparent acetate. The scenes Ushiro paints often hark back to when he was a rugrat, knee-high to a shagpile fibre, and a childhood influenced by both his upbringing on the Hawaiian island of Maui, and the input proffered by his Japanese heritage. Ushiro’s skills have seen him employed by the likes of the Jim Henson Company, Warner Brothers, Touchstone, Sony Pictures and dozens more, and earned him wall-to-wall recognition across the globe.

ED-WINDOWS ON THE WORLD

Although he now lives in Los Angeles, where he “procrastinates by gardening before working in a neat studio with a painting I made of my favourite cat, Rusty, on the wall,” the 36-year-old was born in the “slow town” of Wailuku. It was the kind of place where kids spent their days enjoying simple pleasures like riding bikes, playing basketball, having water fights and hanging out chatting in front of the local corner shop. “Life was filtered down to its purest form,” Ushiro recalls. Nowadays, the area has altered and become more industrialised. “If I go back ‘home’ now, I’m a one of the ‘haoles’, or ‘tourists’; everything has changed, which is partly why I paint my memories – it’s the only way I get to see what I remember. There’s no other way to visit that place any more,” Ushiro reveals. The artistic process not only offers a chance to preserve history, but also to correct minor imperfections and glitches; to exorcise miniature impish demons

as well as immortalise angelic moments: “My childhood was so lovely, but there are tiny things I could have done to make it perfect, and I imagine them in my pictures.”

Ushiro’s frequently sun-drenched pieces encapsulate darker shades of inspiration, too; notably, Hawaiian ghost stories and urban legends, and ‘obake’: shape-shifting creatures from Japanese folklore. “My father is a Hawaiian native, my mother Japanese, so I heard tales from them both,” he explains. In March this year, he took part in a show at the Japanese American National Museum in California entitled *Supernatural*, and exhibited work incorporating myths such as a honeymoon cabin haunted by spirits, a lake whose waters can restore the dead, and volcano goddess Pele, whose explosive desire for her true love is said to cause natural disasters (and who sometimes slays husbands who displease her by drenching them in fiery streams of lava, so do remember to put the

WORDS **ALIX FOX**
PICTURES **ALL IMAGES**
COPYRIGHT **EDWIN USHIRO**

toilet seat down if you date her, lads). “That artwork seemed to resonate with viewers of all ages, which was thrilling, especially as many of them approached me at the gallery to tell me their own spooky stories,” Ushiro enthuses. “Every project I embark upon manages to teach me a new storytelling device, a different approach to arriving at a solution, or a fresh technique.”

ACETATE MODERN

The trademark Ushiro technique has more steps than a millipede ballroom dancing marathon, and involves more media than Jordan’s ‘private’ life. Some of his masterpieces are up to 5ft tall, and are painstakingly built by first drawing in ink, then scanning these sketches into a computer, working on them digitally, printing them out onto transfers, and then encapsulating multiple transfers in layers of clear vinyl, before hand-painting and sometimes distressing the resulting art mille-feuille. “I use a slew of materials based on the effect I wish to achieve, from acetate sheets and markers to glitter, graphite, watercolour, UV vellum, Plexiglas, acrylic, printers and even sea water,” he shares. “I tend to labour over my art too; I always feel I should have produced more than I manage to turn out. Not too long ago, however, I did scale things right back and paint my parents, my auntie and my grandma’s home for a show in which artists created images solely on Post-It notes! Even then though, I employed temporary tattoos, ballpoint pen, Tipp-Ex, stamp pads, rubbing alcohol, string and acrylics... some of mine ended up quite heavy!” But that’s Ushiro all over: a heavyweight in the art of light.

Don’t be a loser, be an Edwinner – check out more at Mrushiro.com

If you’re better organised than an OCD sufferer’s alphabetised CD collection, make a note that Edwin Ushiro will be appearing at the ridiculously exciting Giant Robot Biennale 4 show in 2015 – find out details at Giantrobot.com





HOTSHOTS > BODY MODS

MOD 'N' MAN

Heavily modded human Irregular Joe talks about UV subdermal implants, light-up LEDs embedded in silicone and scoffing his own chest skin

“By day I’m a wage slave; by night, a disturbing individual with a love for loud music and body adjustment,” says Irregular Joe, a Londoner with a nature sweeter than a honey pixie’s popsicle, who’s had a hell of a number of mods done in a relatively short period. “My fiancé Pearl says I did all my modding the wrong way round, and she’s right!” he laughs. “I started with the bold move of having my tongue forked by the excellent Quentin Inglis of Kalima in Worthing when I was 22, then sorta worked backwards over the next few years, picking up piercings and tattoos.” He also managed to pick up some serious scarification, UV and palm tattoos and a host of hardcore implants, and is now working with Iestyn Flye of Divine Canvas studio in King’s Cross on a number of ambitious modjects, both personal and professional. *Bizarre* shot the shit with him about some of his most intriguing mod missions...

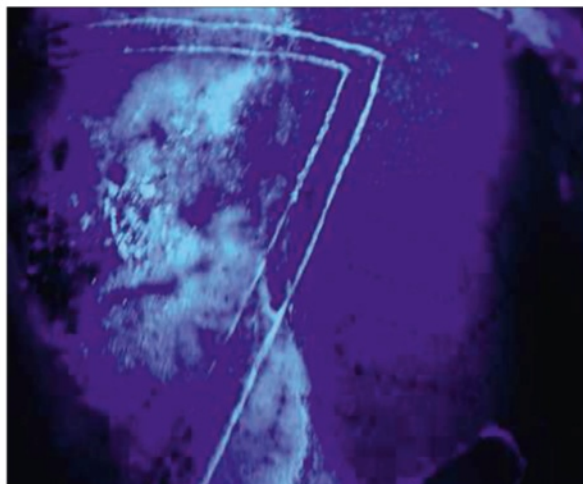
TRANSDERMAL ANTLEERS:

“Iestyn has performed the majority of my heavy mods, and has an uncanny ability to encourage me to proceed beyond anything I’d sensibly consider,” says Joe. For example: getting four transdermal implants – two sets of metal bases sticking out from the skin on either side of his forehead, into which jewellery and spikes can be screwed – the day before a job interview! “I wouldn’t let Iestyn shave my head prior to the procedure, so he had to work around my long hair,” he continues, “but it didn’t cause any problems, either during the operation or healing period. I’m not sure how having a post-mod swollen mug the next morning affected the work opportunity!”

Joe’s recently handmade a pair of horns to wear on his transdermals that are crafted from a naturally shed deer antler, which he cleaned, filed smooth, hollowed out to reduce the weight, then fitted with a thread that screws into his implanted bases. “It’s difficult to create transdermal jewellery that’s not too long or heavy, as if pulls too much on the flesh, it can

WORDS **ALIX FOX**
PICTURES
IRREGULAR JOE

damage tissue, rip open skin or place stress on an implant causing it to reject,” Joe cautions. “I’m currently working with quills and larger pieces of bone to figure out what materials work best and develop safer ways of attaching; for instance, using magnets to hold them in place on metal bases rather than screws, so they’ll fall off harmlessly if they get knocked.”



CHEST SCARIFICATION:

Chest you wait ‘til you see Joe’s upper body: he’s got scarred lines on his chest that are thicker than the lenses in a severely myopic nerd’s specs. “Because I wanted really broad scars, Iestyn had to peel off large lengths of my skin – some of which I ate!” he reveals. “After making his initial cuts, Iestyn uses a topical anaesthetic gel, which helps numb the pain, and also stems some of the blood flow – useful, since I tend to bleed like a stuck pig even when undergoing a simple lobe piercing.”

Despite the pain relief, Joe admits he emitted a few creative cusswords during the scarification process: “I exclaimed ‘Hitler’s cock!’ and ‘Fuck a wolf!’ at least once while being cut – then again when I woke up the morning after and had to peel my dried-on duvet from my fresh chest lacerations...”

UV AND LED SILICONE IMPLANTS:

Joe began to have his arm tattooed with a geometric dotwork piece, before deciding to black it out entirely with ink, and have subdermal implants put in to create 3D patterns beneath the skin – which may even light up. “I’m researching the possibility of encapsulating wirelessly charged LEDs inside silicone implants so they’ll shine through skin,” he explains. “I’m also investigating whether I could install blacklights beneath my flesh, then get tattooed with ‘invisible’ UV ink, so my tats would only glow and show when my internal lighting system was turned on,” Joe enthuses. “The light could flash, or even run in a ‘chasing’ sequence so the tattoos would look like they’re animated. Iestyn and I are already teaming up to provide bespoke subdermals, so watch this space.” How could we say no, Joe?

Wanna buy Joe a cup of Joe and chat about getting some silicone implants made, or have questions about his mods and projects? Drop him a line on Irregularjoeworkshops@gmail.com



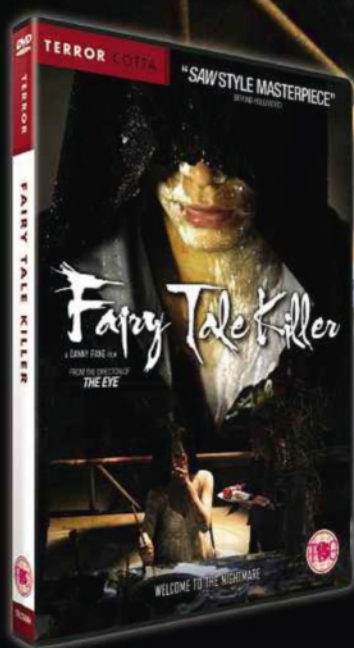
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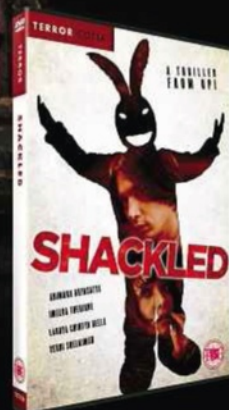
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A CLOSE SHAVE!

Ultra Vixen **Daina Hailey
Renton** faces the *Bizarre*
judges on **p45**



Plus!

Junk Mail

Your letters and photos!

Your Body Art

Your ink'n'iron!

Readers' Art

Your deranged doodles!

PICTURE: DAINA H RENTON



RANT AT US AND SEND US SHIT!

Bizarre's own **Mandatron** loves nothing better than greasing her circuits, pressing her buttons and blowing a fuse over your crazy photos, perverted art and impressive ink. Send in your stuff now, and serve your friendly neighbourhood robot!

Mandatron's favourite submissions will make it onto these hallowed pages!

YOUR BIZARRE

Junk mail

EDITED BY MANDATRON
MANDATRON@BLACKTHORNCOMMUNICATIONS.COM

POSTAL ADDRESS
JUNK MAIL, BIZARRE,
PO BOX 59844, LONDON SW14 9BH

SEND US YOUR STUFF!



Dumpstar!

GORY GOURMET

Hello! I'm Dizzy Diabla, a cake artist from San Antonio in Texas, and I'm a bit bizarre myself! I've been making hand-decorated edible art for two years as a one-woman business called Dizzastrophy Custom Cakes. It's rare that customers order something twisted, so I often decide to treat myself with something bloody and

disgusting. I'm excited to say my portfolio of horror-themed cakes is growing – one gushing wound at a time! I'm pretty insane in the membrane and my Dizzaster-pieces reflect that.

I struggle with chronic asthma, IBS and hypoglycaemia, so my cake-making originally began as a part-time thing to help pay for medical expenses. But I've since gone full-time and take on as

much as I can manage. I also do some visual arts projects and modelling on the side, and I joined the *Bizarre Ultra Vixens* at the beginning of the year. This photo (above left) was thanks to an amazing team, including Alexis Estrada, Angelle Be, Jupiter Moon 3 and one of my favourite photographers!

I created a horror series of cakes that were featured in an art show with designs of Regan from *The Exorcist* (top right), Chucky from *Child's Play*, Freddy Krueger from *A Nightmare On Elm Street* (above right) and Jason Voorhees from the *Friday The 13th*

movies. To my surprise, I stole the show and won first place in San Antonio and 10th in the US.

I'm so ecstatic to share my disgusting desserts with all you gore-loving creatures! There aren't any designs I wouldn't do – I'm all for that shock factor! No matter how gruesome, X-rated or detailed the cake may be... count me in!

Dizzy Diabla, via email
Find Dizzy's messed-up masterpieces on Facebook: [Facebook.com/DizzastrophyCustomCakesSA](https://www.facebook.com/DizzastrophyCustomCakesSA)
Mandatron says: Scream cakes, yum!



WELL GROOMED

On 11 June this year I married Becky; the love of my life. Before we got hitched, we had to leg it to our local newsagent as that was also the same day as the UK on-sale date for *Bizarre* 203, with Leanne James on the cover. Here's a photo of us (above) on our big day with our favourite magazine. We're also proud of our home-made black wedding cake with these Dia De Los Muertos toppers (above right),

and thought your readers might appreciate it too!
Aaron B, via Twitter
Mandatron says: Congratulations on your big day from all at *Bizarre* Towers! Your dedication to this deviant piece of trash knows no bounds. We're glad to see things are on the up since we heard about your cancer battle in *Bizarre* 197. Now, how about some exclusive honeymoon pictures, eh?



QUIPS AND CHAINS

Hi! My name's Dan and I run alt.jewellery store Bleeding Marvelous. I love *Bizarre* and wanted to see my weird stuff in your pages.

I suffer from dyslexia, so in school I was utter shit at learning anything, especially spelling. But I was always good at making things, so I started flogging bits to other kids in the playground so I could afford to buy a *Bizarre* mag. I started a Facebook page at the end of last year to promote my business, and it's taken off better than I could've ever imagined.

I've always been a horror buff, so my online shops are mainly stocked with zombie and other alt.themed accessories, including stuff from our own brand, Kreepsville, Yujean and more. We've met and collaborated with some amazing people, including sideshow acts from The Circus Of Horrors such as El Luchio and Citizen Snipp, and we're represented by one of the most amazing models, Ultra Vixen Samii Bliss (above right).

Bleeding Marvelous has already been recognised for its achievements, and was voted as 'Shop Of The Night' and 'Brand Of The Month' in two separate competitions. We regularly run competitions on our Facebook page – search for 'Bleeding Marvelous' – and clog up our News Feed with stories on new products before they're available in our stores, and fucking amazing giveaways.

Danielle Hayes, via Facebook. Buy your bits from Bleedingmarvelous.bigcartel.com

Mandatron says: Dan kindly sent the *Bizarre* team a box of joy'n'wonder, filled with treasures packaged inside little black coffins – how did you



know we like our post D.O.A? Here I am wearing everything at once, because they're too good to share (above). Thanks!

BUCK YEAH!

Dear *Bizarre*. I have been an avid reader of your magazine since 2000, and it was through your great articles that I was introduced to the handsome Buck Angel. A few years ago while visiting an art gallery, I saw a bronze statue of Buck but was unable to take a picture at the time. To my great surprise when visiting the Adelaide Museum in South Australia last week, my six-year-old daughter and I spotted this (left)! My daughter thinks Buck's pretty cool, too. Keep it up, *Bizarre*!

Natalie Whellum, via Facebook

ONE OF US... ONE OF US!

In my circle of friends, I'm the only alternative type. I have shaved hair, tattoos, piercings and I wear punk clothing. The people I hang out with are completely the opposite. I love my mates, but when we go out together I get stared at, sometimes laughed at, and occasionally it grates. I wish for an easy life and I just want to 'blend in' with others who look like me. I have no one to talk to about the alternative lifestyle. The people around me think →



BE READY TO RUN-CORN

I'm the author of a zombie apocalypse novel *Death In A Northern Town*, set in a small part of Cheshire. The story is mostly related to the journal entries of survivor John Diant, coupled with details of the apocalypse as it happens in different locations in Runcorn. I've approached writing the book somewhat unconventionally, and have asked people to submit their name to be used for characters via the Facebook page – some may be killing zombies, others may become zombies, or even be eaten by zombies. This proved very successful as I received around 100 names! I also organised a promotional zombie photoshoot and invited people to come along in special FX make-up and costumes – I was astounded by the effort people put in and I have some great shots (see above for an example) thanks to almost 60 participants and the amazing photographers. My e-book was released mid-July and hit number six in the Kindle horror charts on its first day, and will soon be available in paperback.

Pete McKiernon, via email

it's freaky and I have been given the nickname 'Edgy'. I won't even begin with what my mother says; I am not the daughter she expected me to be!

It gets damn lonely at times, but before I have you all reaching for a tissue, I have to assure you it isn't all bad. I wanted to write to say your magazine has actually really helped. I came across it by chance, flicked through and found it had everything! There are tattoos, dark art, fetishes and brilliant features – I was sold. I read that issue in one sitting and subscribed the next day. It's wonderful to think there's a whole community out there. Thank you. You've made one isolated little weirdo a lot less lonely!

KC, via email

Mandatron says: *Sniff* It's great to hear you've found some solace in our pages. But if you fancy finding

some like-minded freaks to hang out with, make a free profile on our site SavageHearts.co.uk and search for folks in your home town.

CLOWNING AROUND

My other half Ben and I flew to the US in 2011 to attend The Gathering for his 21st birthday. Ben introduced me to all things ICP (Insane Clown Posse) when we started going out, and he's called himself a Juggalo for a long time. While at the festival we received a lot of attention for being English (our accents gave us away), and we were admired for our dedication to attend – although, to us, all we did was catch a plane. We spoke with people who'd quit their jobs just to go to The



Gathering, and people who'd had a hard time being associated with Juggalos.

The article published in *Bizarre* 204 about Knox and his 2,000-mile trek to The Gathering was really thought-provoking. I also liked your unbiased reporting; there were no accusations or judgements, and it just stated the facts (even though some of them are unfortunate, such as the association with thugs).

I think it's wrong to tar everyone with the same brush – I love ICP, but I'm currently a medical student and hobbyist photographer, while my other half works full-time. I'm sure this applies in the US as well, where ICP is a well-known band and the negative stereotypes are more prominent. Here's a photo (left) of me, Ben and rapper Prozak (centre) who performed live at the festival in 2011. The Gathering is definitely worth the trip, even if it's only a once in a lifetime journey. Ben and I would love to go back!

Natalie Taylor

unintended consequences of a biotechnology revolution following the discovery of recombinant DNA. This futuristic society undergoes catastrophes, such as plagues caused by genetically-modified crops and mutant pests that ravage populations. The image explores the struggles of individuals or groups, often the product of human experimentation, where totalitarian governments and mega corporations misuse biotechnologies as social control.

Body paint and liquid latex appear as a genetically altering epidermal structure found only in individuals enhanced by genetic manipulation. Only one individual can develop new abilities by merging and altering DNA absorbed from the mutant pests she has killed!

Janette Sulastri, via Facebook

See more work at Tobiasbatz.com and Janettesulastri.tumblr.com

Mandatron says: Blimey, that's a pretty dark future. Cool work, though!



PICTURE BLACKGAT PHOTOGRAPHY (@BLACKGAT_TOG) VIA TWITTER

What's this? Why, it's Ultra Vixen CherryJo Zombie, and she's found "the perfect way to chill out in a hotel room with the world's #1 altmag!" Gas mask reading sure looks... err, comfortable?



PICTURE BRYN CLEGG

WHERE DO YOU READ?

Most of you enjoy perusing *Bizarre* on the crapper, just like King Karim Jamal (right), but we want to see you reading the world's greatest rag on the highest peaks, in the lowest valleys... and in the weirdest places!



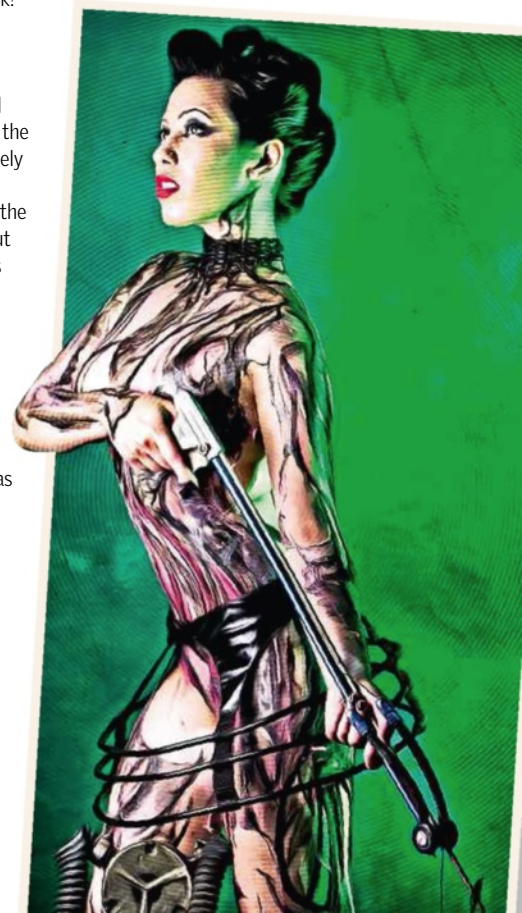
HOOTS MON!

This stately display (above) had something missing, but it looks the *Biz*-ness now. We were at a lovely holiday home at Loch Ness in Scotland. Sadly, we didn't spot the Nessie we all know and love, but the Loch did some weird things to our Staffie (above right), now known as Dotty-Ness.

Wilma Howat, via Facebook

ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

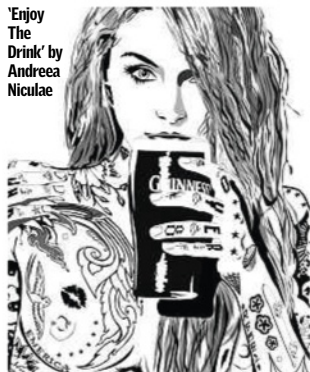
I'm a model and fan of *Bizarre* magazine. This photo (right) was taken by photographer Tobias Batz for an exhibition called *Retro Futurism: Sci-Fi Visions Of What Could Have Been* at a gallery in New York. We worked with designer Isabelle Batz, make-up artist Manana Saralidze and stylist Lizzy Weinberg to create this image titled 'Abomination Of Desolation'. The image is designed to capture the



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'Enjoy The Drink' by Andreea Niculae



Can you guess True-ly which cover girl this is?

PICTURE: PROTEUS PHOTOGRAPHY

Dokka snapped this at their "first ever messy shoot"!



PICTURE: CRESTFALL PHOTOGRAPHY

'Black House' by Natali Wiseman



DivineChaosArt's photo mutilation 'Inner Demons'



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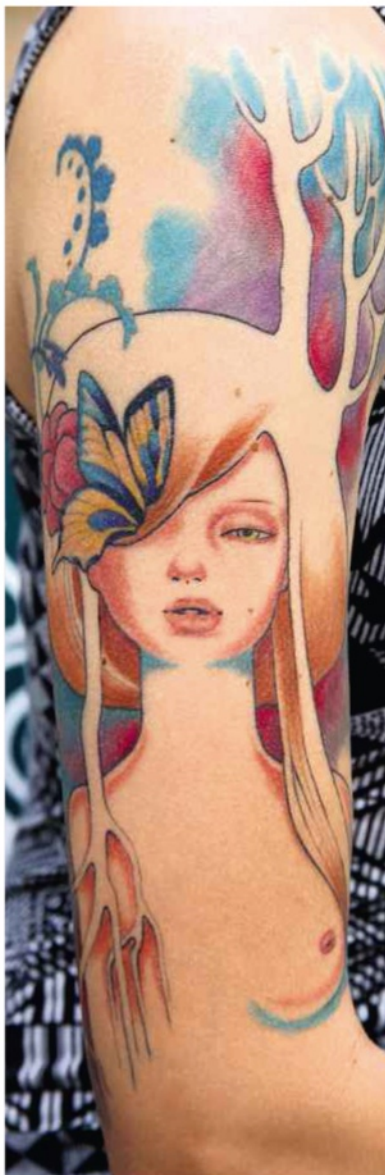
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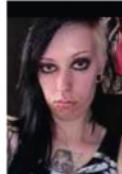
PICTURE: JAMES ELLIS

YOUR Body Art

READER TATTS AND BODY MODS



GEM HARDY ▼ BURY ST EDMUNDS



ARTIST

Karen Herd at Curiosities Tattoo Studio, Ipswich.

WHAT IS IT?

Grandpa Munster.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

This design is inspired by my love of *The Munsters* throughout my childhood. I like that I can express myself through my tattoos, and look a little less boring.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?

My family like all of my tattoos! I also receive comments about how awesome *The Munsters* is, and people are impressed by the quality of Karen's portraiture work. This tattoo is a good conversation starter.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?

I've got loads more planned, including completing my sleeve with Lily and Herman Munster, and I want to fill all the other blank spaces that are left on my body.



▲ ROSIE HOGAN BOLTON



ARTIST Adam Pekrat at Vida Loca Tattoo, Bolton.

WHAT IS IT?

A piece of artwork by Audrey Kawasaki

titled 'Memai' (meaning 'halo' or 'corona' in Japanese).

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

My love for art, nature and the female form were my inspirations. I liked the idea of having a twist on the typical pin-up as the centre of my sleeve. I've always loved ink and the idea of

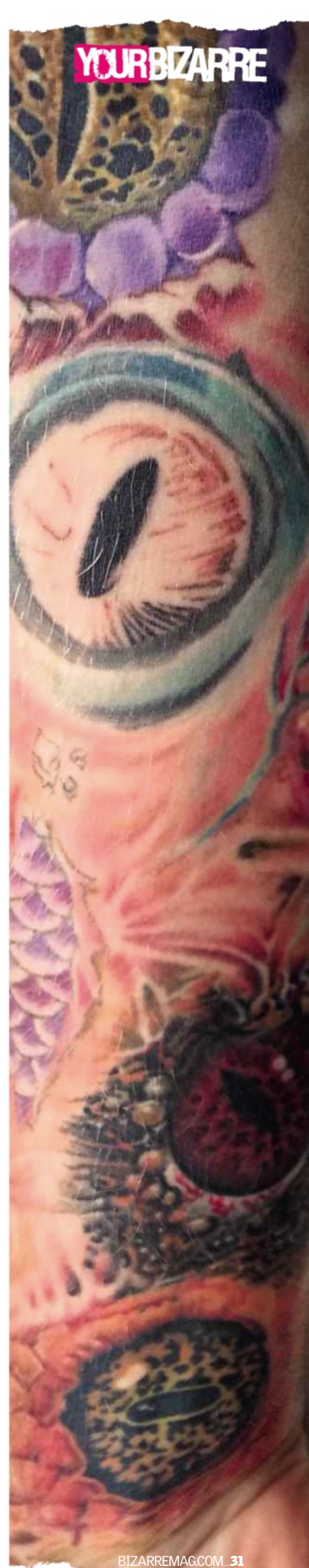
my skin being a canvas for beautiful art, and it livens up my boring dress sense!

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?

My family are surprisingly positive about my tattoos; they think I've made a good choice with the artwork, and they agree that it suits me. I receive mostly positive responses from people, especially those who are curious to know where the art is from and who it is by. My co-workers are amused by the nipple they can see appearing just below my uniform sleeve.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?

I'd like an extension of this in the form of flowers, birds and images in tribute to loved ones that have passed away.



GUZZ STAFFORD



ARTIST Andy McDonald and Gracie Gosling at Signature Studios, Lichfield.

WHAT IS IT?

An arm full of eyeballs by Andy, a tentacle cupcake by Gracie.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

The eyeball arm is based on a character called Danzo in *Naruto*. He has eyes with powers implanted into his arms because he's a dirty bastard. To those who don't know, it's just a gross arm full of eyes. Gracie made me have the cupcake...

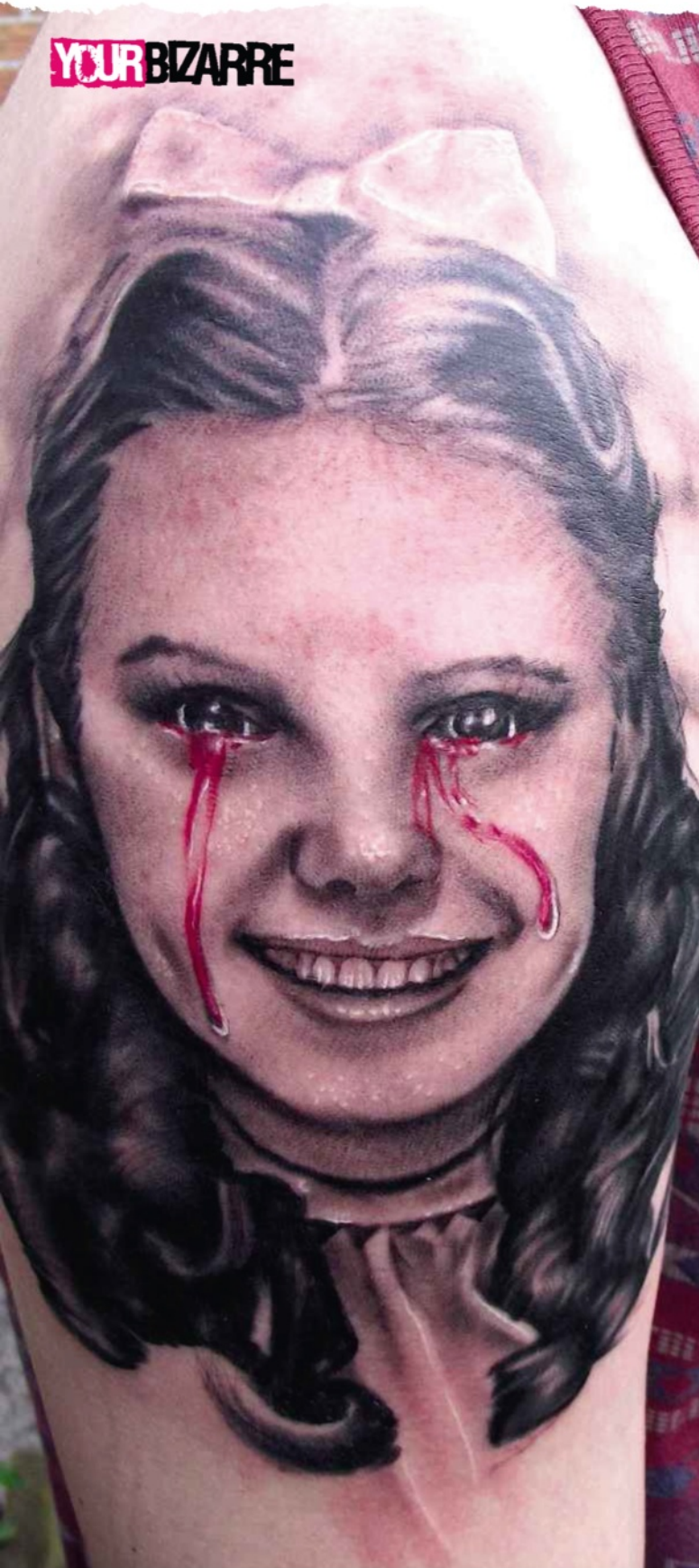
WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?

People notice my forearm and say "that's... different!" I like the colours,

particularly the purples and the oranges. My cupcake gets a mixed response – usually people say it's cool, whereas others need a double-take. Because I happen to look like a biker, I don't suppose people ever expect to see this fucking cupcake.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?

The Danzo arm is going to be a sleeve, but I'd love to have some fill-in work on my other arm by Jeff Gogue. →



RICHARD BROOMHALL ▼
BIRMINGHAM



ARTIST

Argel Nuñez at Cozumel Ink, Mexico.

WHAT IS IT?

An Aztec calendar and artwork inspired by ancient Mayan culture.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

I designed this tattoo myself. I'm

inspired by the Aztec people, their traditions, and their beliefs.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?

My family love it – they admire the great detail. I have the Mayan zodiac symbols of my mum, dad and sister incorporated in the tattoo, so they like it.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?

I enjoy the feeling of having a tattoo. I love the noise when I'm under the needle, and I take pleasure in having something no one else has on my body.



▲ KERRY THOMAS
WALES



ARTIST Liam Casey at Timeless Tattoo, Llanelli.

WHAT IS IT?

Dorothy from *The Wizard Of Oz*, crying blood.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

I have a really big obsession with *The*

Wizard Of Oz and I love hardcore gore. Judy Garland is one of my idols, but I didn't want a boring tribute to her – I wanted something that would make me and others think "fucking hell!"

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET?

People ask if it's real. I suppose that's down to the excellent detail of it. My little brother and sister really like it too.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?

Dorothy is going to be eating her dog Toto in her hands, below her portrait.

PICTURE: MARK PERRY PHOTOGRAPHY

EFFLECTUM ► KINGSTON UPON THAMES



ARTIST Edgar Ivanov
at Old London Road
Tattoos, London.

WHAT IS IT?
Portrait of David Bowie.
WHY DID YOU

CHOOSE IT? My thigh is dedicated to the things and the people I love, as well as my inspirations. Next to Bowie is alt.model Razor Candi – her work is beautiful. I enjoy the process of planning a tattoo with the artist by giving them ideas and watching as they create something unique. I feel proud having these beautiful pieces on me as they

make me feel beautiful in return. We're given a blank canvas at birth – why not make it interesting?

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?

At the studio where I work I'm known as 'the one with the David Bowie tattoo!' A lot of people have seen it from my modelling images, from Edgar's portfolio or the studio's web pages. Nearly every response has been positive – even from old ladies because they know who it is. My sister likes it, and I hope my grandma would too!

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?

I'm getting a sleeve by Katan Costello. Edgar is adding more portraits to my thigh. I'm having some rubbish tattoos covered and a billion other things added.

LAURA C ▼ ESSEX



ARTIST Noon at
The Family Business,
London.

WHAT IS IT?
A mariachi skeleton
playing a guitar with

some dot work and the phrase 'jusqu'ici tout va bien' (meaning 'so far so good').

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO GET IT?

I fell in love with the concept of Dia De Los Muertos (Mexican Day Of The Dead) years ago. I wanted to commemorate my lost loved ones while avoiding the typical sugar skulls or painted ladies. I'm the lead singer and bassist in my band The Darvaza Hole, so a mariachi seemed perfect. The dot work represents Noon's

style, as well as his incomparable and unique characters. The phrase is one of the opening lines from French film *La Haine*. It sums up my attitude towards life, which ties in nicely with the spirit of the Day Of The Dead.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET?

Everyone loves it. Strangers approach me and compliment it – even the editor of *Skin Deep* magazine told me he liked it! My boyfriend hasn't got any ink, and even though I already had a couple of smaller ones, he wasn't sure what he'd think of me with a larger one. As soon as he saw it, he was sold; he thinks it's awesome and wants a tattoo himself!

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?

Several symbols, including yin-yang, evil eye and all-seeing eye, but I haven't decided whether to have them together or dotted around my body. →





KEV DAVIS
PORTSMOUTH



ARTIST Viktor Dimitrov at Body Images 2, Portsmouth.

WHAT IS IT?
A green man.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I love nature, and the green man

represents this. I'm 59 and have a few tattoos, but this is the best yet. It felt like the right time for this one.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?

My friends and family all love it. I don't get many comments as it's on the top of my leg, so usually hidden from view.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?

Viktor will be tattooing Medusa on my left leg as I trust him to do a good job.

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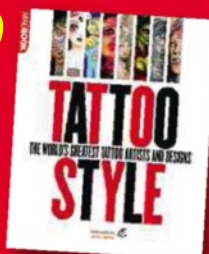


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Lal Hardy is a familiar, larger than life figure on the international tattoo scene. He has also worked within the industry as a show organiser and Secretary of The Association of Professional Tattoo Artists, a post he held for 15 years. Lal Hardy can be found inking his regular clients as well as a host of celebrities & musicians through to the very highest paid UK professional footballers at his New Wave Studio in London.



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Lal Hardy

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Asaf Wismel

Israel

"My passion is to create scenes that would not be possible by photography alone – postproduction is important within my work process.

This is from a project called *The Others*."

[Facebook.com/asafwismel](https://www.facebook.com/asafwismel)



Eddy Avila

Venezuela

"My art is closely related to the world of tattooing and body modification. I often work with oil on canvas, but music is also a great tool when creating a new painting!"

[Twitter.com/eddyavilaart](https://twitter.com/eddyavilaart)

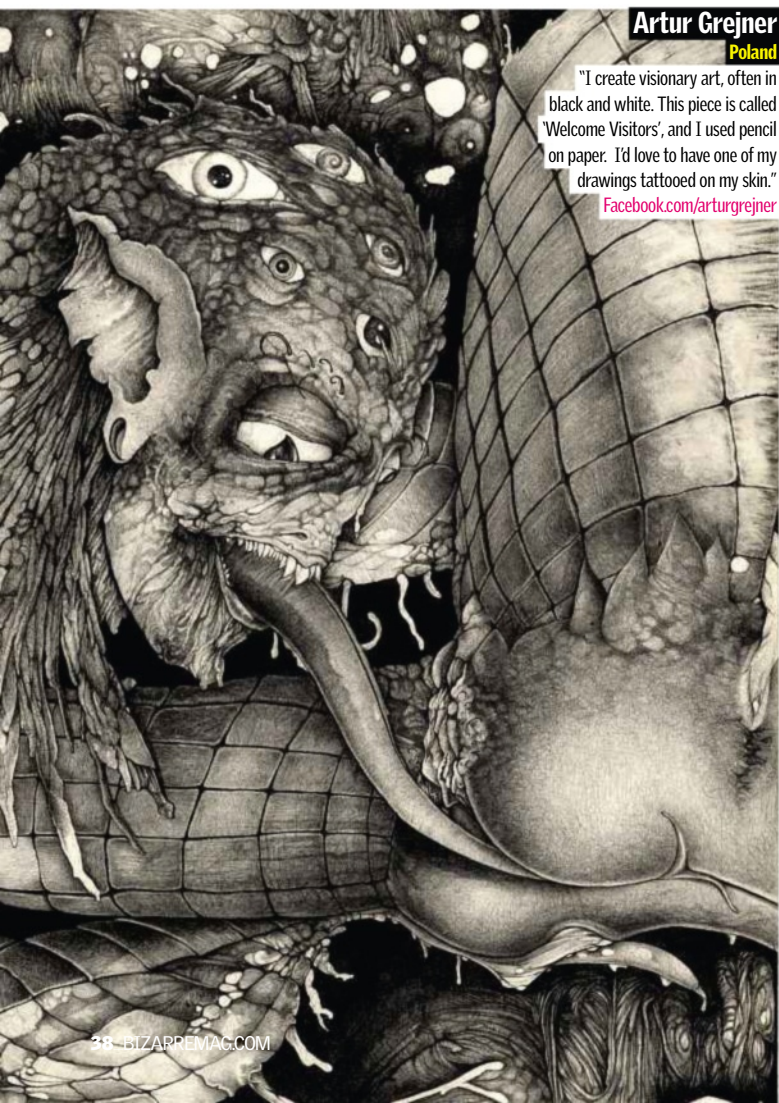


Artur Grejner

Poland

"I create visionary art, often in black and white. This piece is called 'Welcome Visitors', and I used pencil on paper. I'd love to have one of my drawings tattooed on my skin."

[Facebook.com/arturgrejner](https://facebook.com/arturgrejner)



Tom McCarthaigh

Bristol

"This piece is called 'Death Of The Queen Brain Cell'. I was trying to depict the retarding effects of my psychosis back in 2007 and the slow years in recovery."

[Traumatimeillustration.com](https://traumatimeillustration.com)



BIZARRE SAVAGE HEARTS DATING



PROFILE:

Age: 27

Sex: Female

Lives: Bristol

Interested in: Men & Women



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- ☐ Cooking
- ☒ Gym/Exercise
- ☒ Photography
- ☐ Sport
- ☐ Cinema

☒ BDSM

- ☐ Travelling
- ☒ Socialising
- ☐ Gardening
- ☐ Walking
- ☐ Theatre

☒ Music METAL & ROCK

☒ TATTOOS

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**AMY LYNN
STONE**

31, CANADA

"I'm a fun and outgoing body-piercer
from Grande Prairie, Alberta.
Take me for who I am or don't let
the door hit you on the way out.
I admire Marilyn Monroe for pushing
to be the most she could be."

PICTURE (ANGEL): JANELLELLA PHOTOGRAPHY
PICTURE (EVIL): NIC BURGESS

**EMMA J
BLACK**
21, BASINGSTOKE

"Watching a doctor sew my lower eyelid together was one of my weirdest life moments. I've also been tied up, spanked and tortured by a domme who denied me an orgasm."

PICTURE: CCB PHOTOGRAPHY



KADIVA ALCORTA

34, TEXAS

"My hottest fantasy is to have sex on a metal surgical table in an operating theatre with an audience. I love sour candy and hugs, and all of the articles, the girls and the gore in *Bizarre* magazine!"

PICTURE: LE MEU PHOTOGRAPHY

COVER STORY

WHAT! EXPLICIT PICS! JOIN NOW!

BIZARRE'S
**Ultra
Vixens**

REBEKAH FLOWER

23, WEST YORKSHIRE

"I want to get it on at the side of a stage while my favourite band rocks out! Metal music makes me horny. *Bizarre* is great for being different from other alt.mags - I love weird and wacky stuff."

PICTURE: JAMIE MAHON

RED-HOT!
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KRYSTAL
27, ESSEX

"I'm a fun and laid-back MILF who laughs and farts a lot! I have fantasies about midgets... I'm obsessed with them. Before I die, I want to cover myself in tattoos and survive a zombie apocalypse."

PICTURE: BENN HEALY



COVER STARS! HOT GIRLS! LIVE CHAT! EXPLICIT PICS! JOIN NOW!



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HOW IT WORKS

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Sign up to UltraVixens.net and you'll not only be able to submit your snaps to these pages, but you'll also be in with a chance of getting on the cover of the magazine!

Each month we'll be scouring UltraVixens.net for new stars. When we've spotted 10 girls we like, we'll invite them to take part in a photoshoot in London, which will be printed in *Bizarre*. If any of the girls make the grade, they'll appear on the cover, just like PoppyThorn did (below)! Up for the challenge? Then sign up at UltraVixens.net and hit the 'Make Me A Cover Star' button on your profile page!



"SOME GIRLS MIGHT FEEL PRESSURE TO SLIM DOWN, BUT IF I DID THAT I WOULDN'T GET TO SHOW OFF MY BRONZING CURVES!"

"I DID A PHOTOSHOOT IN AN OLD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, INSIDE A PRISON CELL. I TRIED TO IGNORE THE BLOOD SPLATS ALONG THE WALL."

OUR NEW FAVES!

BIZARRE ART DIRECTOR DAVE KELSALL AND MANDATRON JUDGE NEW ARRIVALS ON ULTRAVIXENS.NET



PICTURE DAINA HRENTON

DAINA HAILEY RENTON

Mandatron says: "Since Daina became an Ultra Vixen in May, she's been uploading a load of weird'n'wonderful pictures! If you want to see a sexy nun smoking in fishnet stockings, look no further."



Dave Kelsall says: "Great variety of shots! Check out her head shaving on p25... it's unusual shots such as this one that we love here at *Bizarre*."

PEACHES NIGHT

Mandatron says: "Oh, yes, we do love a DIY shoot now and again. Peaches has posed everywhere in her home... even at the kitchen sink! The yoghurt 'money shots' in the bath are my favourite. Slurp!"

Dave Kelsall says: "Yeh, lovely... and I really don't want to piss on Peaches chips, but while I'm here... turn over and take a look at JezabelPropaganda as well... I've started a campaign to get her back in the mag. YOINKS!"



PICTURE PAUL HEATH

VER-CHING!



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Nina La Belle (below) is one of our latest **LIVE CHAT** girls. Sign up and head to Ultravixens.net/ninalabelle to book a chat session with her. To see the full line-up of **LIVE CHAT** Ultra Vixens, go to UltraVixens.net/live



PICTURE: NORTY BUT NICE PHOTOGRAPHY

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WILD THING!

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PHOTOS **GEMMA EDWARDS /**
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STYLING **ALL CUSTOM LATEX**
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Proud metal-head, chicken nugget fiend and superhero cat rescuer **Mellisa Clarke** is bringing goth-sexy to the masses. For that we'd like to tickle her chin and rub her purr-fect belly. Want some of the action? Form an orderly queue... →





Ravishing Mellisa Clarke could be described as the classic *Bizarre* cover model on a multitude of levels. She's a self-confessed 'goofy' girl with porcelain skin, pixie-esque features and super-cool hair. She listens to loud, heavy music and dresses up as Wonder Woman at comic conventions. And she's also one of the most popular and sexiest of ladies at pioneering alt.website, Suicide Girls.

However, there's something a little unique – *unconventionally* unusual, even – about our Mellisa. And we're not referring to her ravenous cravings for chicken nuggets. It's the fact that she was also crowned 'Page 3 Idol 2013' by *The Sun*, a popular tabloid not normally renowned for championing alt.girls and edgy fashions. Could this be a sign that Mellisa's superwomanly charms know no limit, and that world domination will soon be hers? We thought we'd ask...

Hello Mellisa. You're a Suicide Girl but also a cover star for various 'lads' and fashion magazines, and *The Sun* newspaper's 'Page 3 Idol' of 2013. Not many *Bizarre* cover girls can stake that claim. How does a wild, elfin Suicide Girl go about winning a national tabloid competition?

It feels fucking awesome and empowering. I know I'm not absolutely covered in tattoos, but I don't think that's what makes an alt.model, especially as there are now so many girls just getting sleeves because it's cool or in fashion. I can happily say that I am a massive metal-head and proud to have been one since I can remember. I had a much stronger campaign compared to other girls in the *Sun* competition. If people wanted the bland, same old shit, why bother running a competition and celebrate finding a girl that's basically a clone? I represent the goth girls that weren't labelled 'hot' in school, but are now waving a massive middle finger to everybody, and I feel a lot of people saw that I was genuinely fighting for a change and had a proper cause, and thus they made me a winner. There's nothing quite as satisfying as proving people wrong.

Is the alternative 'look' now reaching out to the masses and being accepted?

Yes, it's amazing. It's happening, slowly but surely, and I'm happy to be helping with that.

As well as your recent modelling victories, you were also at Comic-Con in San Diego. You obviously have cool tastes, too. How were your experiences there?

Comic-Con was immense. I had never been to one before, so I wasn't quite sure what to expect →



CAT LADY

but I loved it. My favourite costume was dressing up as Wonder Woman. I also snuck into Metallica's premiere of their 3D movie *Through The Never* (in UK cinemas from 4 October), which melted my face off. It was such a wicked film. It was fun to watch it sitting among Batmen and Wolverines.

If Mellisa Clarke was reinvented as a graphic novel character, what kind of heroine would she be?

That's easy. I'd be a cat lady, but a sexy one – not like the old, crazy one in *The Simpsons* who throws her cats at people. My character would rescue all the stray cats in the world, and we'd all live happily ever after. How's that for an ending?

I like it. I guess that goes pretty well with the theme of our cover shoot. Are you a bit of a cat lover? →

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THE GOTH
GIRLS THAT
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I have two cats of my own: one is tiny and brings me dead birds, which I think are meant to be gifts. It's the thought that counts, I guess. The other one is huge and dopey and just climbs on top of me.

Away from rescuing stray cats, is it true that your ultimate ambition is to star in a Limp Bizkit music video?

Yes, and if anybody could make that happen, I'd appreciate it.

You also DJ a lot, correct? I'm guessing you play a lot of metal rather than spinning Dire Straits records – much to Bizarre Picture Editor Tom Broadbent's disappointment...

Haha, I'm afraid not. I do indeed play a lot of metal, pop punk and indie. I actually DJ'd at an after-party at the Download festival. Jack Osbourne was just randomly chilling in the guest area at the time. He seemed like a nice chap. I've yet to meet Fred Durst from Limp Bizkit – I just missed him that time, but my friends got pictures taken with him. I was gutted! I met Chino from Deftones at a party in London, though. That was such an honour because the Deftones are one of my favourite bands.

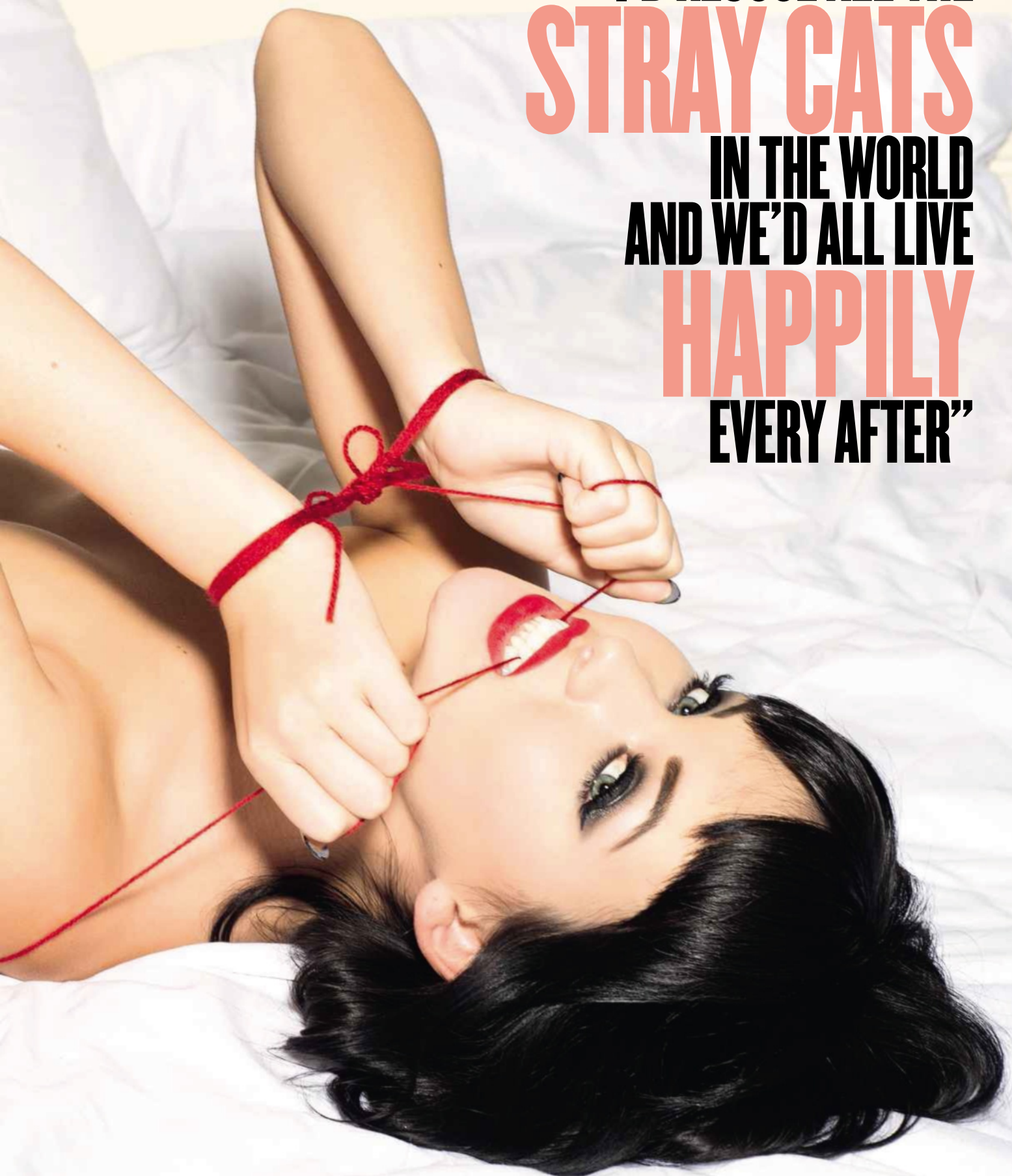
You also cite travelling as a big hobby. What are the best and craziest places you've been to?

Japan is the most memorable country I've ever visited. I loved how busy and crazy it was there, like a whole different world. They have these cat cafés where you can drink tea and pet cute cats – what a genius idea. I went to the Harajuku district, which is basically like Camden Town in London, but a lot better. There were so many cute Japanese girls dressed up. I also went to a theme park in Japan. I love roller coasters, so any country or city that has a good theme park and I'm sold. I also skydived in Australia and that was awesome. I'm a massive thrill seeker.

Is it true that you're addicted to fatty foods, especially chicken nuggets?

Yes! I am a massive chicken nugget fiend. Haha! I'd probably eat them all day if I could. It's just a childhood addiction that never left. I usually eat loads when I'm drunk... so that's most of the time. I'm basically King Curtis from the TV show *Wife Swap*. If you haven't seen it, YouTube it. (Bizarre infoblast: King Curtis is a seven-year-old 'devil child' who *only* eats chicken nuggets.) →

**"I'D RESCUE ALL THE
STRAY CATS
IN THE WORLD
AND WE'D ALL LIVE
HAPPILY
EVERY AFTER"**





"I AM A MASSIVE CHICKEN NUGGET FIEND. I'D EAT THEM ALL DAY IF I COULD"

How do you maintain your incredible figure?

I don't actually know. I think I'm just blessed with a fast metabolism. For now anyway... so I may as well lap it up while I can.

Have you ever eaten yourself into a kind of 'food coma' where you've had to be carried out of a restaurant?

Not to that extent, thank God. Though I have been temporarily immobilised from eating far too much...

What's the strangest thing you've ever had in your mouth?

I'm not telling you that! Haha. 🐱

To keep up to date with all of Mellisa's goofy shenanigans, follow her at:

Instagram: [melclarkey](#)

Twitter: [@mellisa_clarke](#)

Website: [Mellisa-Clarke.com](#)



CAT LADY

**“I AM PROUD
TO HAVE BEEN A
MASSIVE
METAL-
HEAD
SINCE I CAN
REMEMBER”**



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CAT LADY



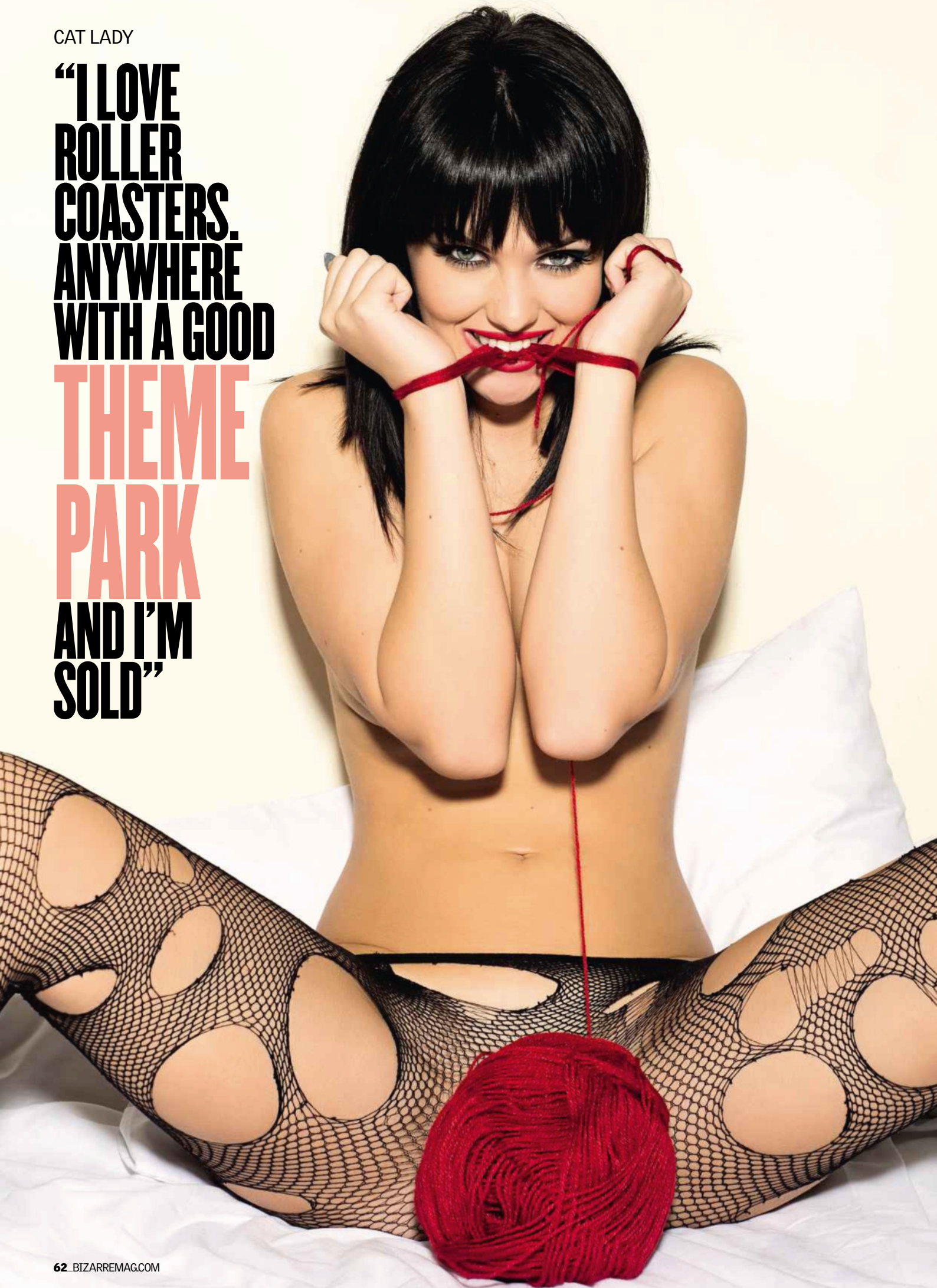
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AND SNUCK INTO THE PREMIERE OF

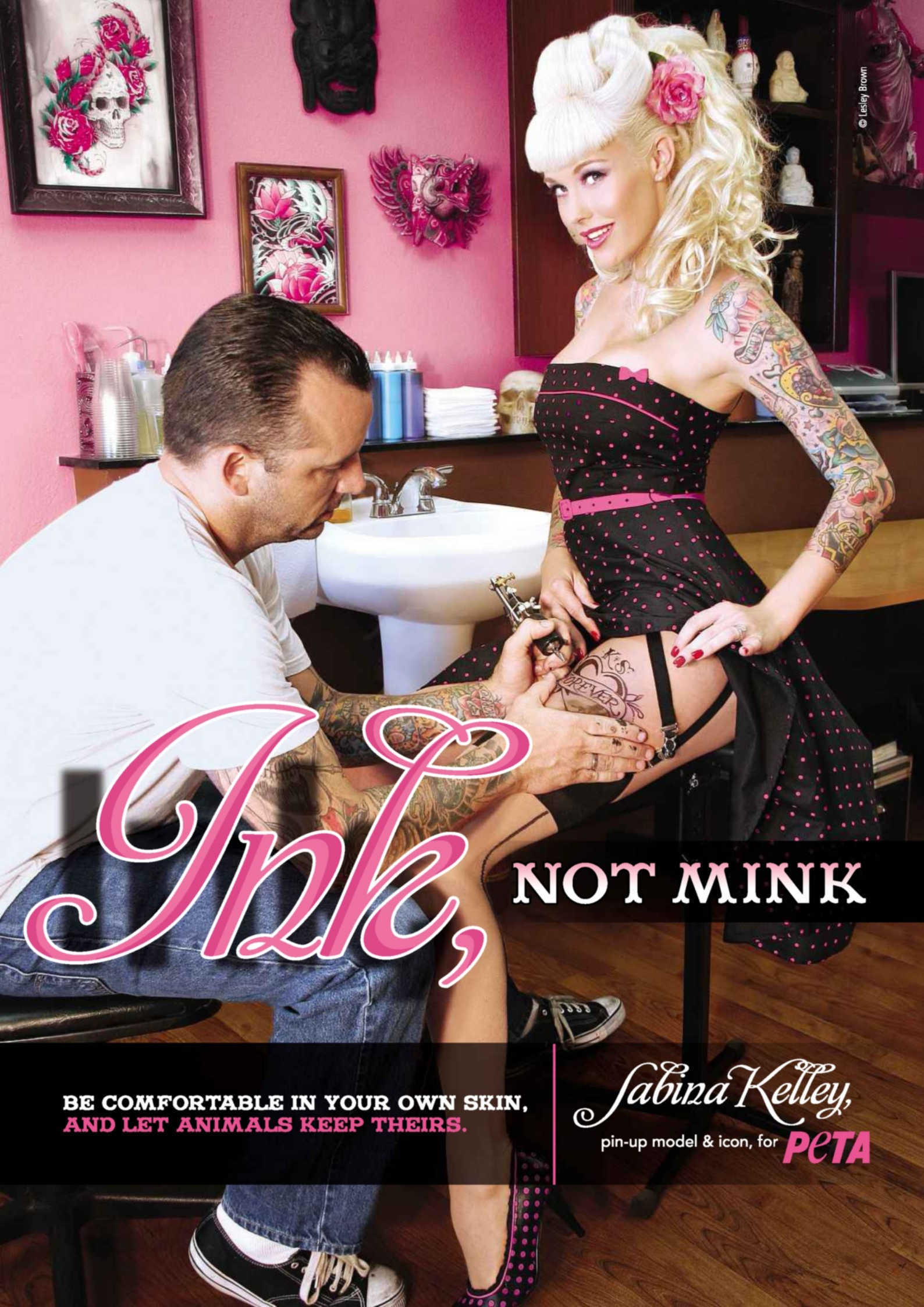


THE NEW 3D **METALLICA MOVIE!"**

CAT LADY

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COASTERS.
ANYWHERE
WITH A GOOD
THEME
PARK
AND I'M
SOLD"**





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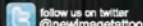
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nature of our performances means individual acts may sometimes change

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WORDS **STEPHEN DAULTREY**
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WEST END FREAKS!

Bizarre's favourite, filthiest freak show is set to embark on its biggest tour ever, which will see them become the first circus act to perform in London's West End in more than 100 years. Wayward ringleader Dr Haze spills the spiel on plagues, murders and the mystery behind a lost, foreboding film... →





“A DISLOCATING CONTORTIONIST WILL PERFORM A SCENE FROM *THE EXORCIST* ON A GIANT BED”



Going to see The Circus Of Horrors every winter has become almost as integral to the cold season as Halloween parties, shorter days and astronomically high heating bills. This year, the ring-bound rotters are performing a murder mystery epic that's set during the Great Plague of London, and which is inspired by a lost 1927 horror film from *Freaks* director, Tod Browning.

The tour, named *London After Midnight* in honour of the Browning flick, runs from late October to March 2014, and includes a landmark eight-day stint in London's West End. We caught up with the Horrors' debonair host, Dr Haze, to find out what nasty treats he has in store...

The last time we spoke you were in possession of a 'devil doll' that many of your troupe believed was cursed, and which caused some of them to walk out mid-tour. We remember you mentioning various road accidents while the doll was around, and that your sword

swallower, Hannibal Helmurto, almost killed himself during a show. Did anything else go wrong during *The Curse Of The Devil Doll* tour?

No, because I retired the dolls. In fact, I sold the 'cursed' doll in the Auction Of Horrors earlier this year, simply because a lot of people did genuinely believe it was cursed. I'm not so sure about that myself, but I didn't mind earning a few quid out of it! We also sold the sword that nearly killed our sword swallower.

How much did the doll go for?

One of our biggest fans bought it for £250. There were a couple of sideshow collectors interested as well, but I think they'd spent all their money on the swords by the time the doll came up.

But £250 sounds like a bargain for such a notorious piece of freak show history...

It's got a good history, but people were scared of buying it. The day before the auction, a guy from the Auction Of Horrors came over to collect it. He then went to (illusionist and former *Bizarre*

columnist) Simon Drake's House Of Magic to collect more things. For whatever reason, he took the doll inside the House Of Magic and Simon yelled: "Get that fucking thing out of my house!" Funnily enough, the amp near to where the doll had been sitting in Simon's venue blew up that night, and Simon also got a parking ticket.

No word of any ill-fortune from its new owner? You know, we'd be shit-scared to have that doll anywhere near our flat...

Strangely, I did hear from the girl who bought it because she sent me a photo of her new tattoo, which is a portrait of me on her arm. So far she has reported no problems.

Moving away from curses, the major news from The Circus Of Horrors camp is that you have a new tour starting in October called *London After Midnight*, which includes an eight-day stint in London's West End. Nice!

It's by far the biggest tour we've done. We tour every winter, and every time we visit a city I think

this may be the last time we come here. Then as soon as we finish, we're booked again! The biggest shock was getting in the West End. That's very unusual. We can never find a decent London venue. Hackney Empire is great, but it's off the beaten track. We played in the indigO2 at the O2, which I like, but it isn't the perfect venue to see the show. Fans prefer older theatres. On a whim, I approached a London theatre company, and within the day we were offered eight shows at the Lyric Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue, which is where *Thriller* is currently playing.

It will be a fantastic experience to see your show in an old London theatre...

It's a massive breakthrough. There hasn't been a circus in a West End theatre for over 100 years, and if you also consider the notoriety of The Circus Of Horrors, that's some achievement. When we first started appearing on TV, we'd be shoved on late at night. As time went on, we started getting slots on earlier shows such as *Britain's Got Talent*. It proves you can take something extreme to the mainstream and the mainstream will like it. I think everyone should read *Bizarre* and, if they saw it, I'm sure they'd enjoy it. The same goes for The Circus Of Horrors.

Will you have to tone down for the West End crowds or will your hoover-penetrating dwarf, Captain Dan, still be whipping out his dick?

You'll never get Dan to keep his dick in! No, he'll do exactly the same – we've given the show an adult rating. Because it's a beautiful old Victorian building, audiences will be really close to the action. There will be lots of fire, and aerial acts flying right over people's heads. It will be pretty remarkable.

You've called the show *London After Midnight*. Is there a theme or story to the new tour?



LONDON AFTER MIDNIGHT



It's named after a lost horror film from Tod Browning (*Freaks*, *Dracula*), which starred Lon Chaney. The film, which was also known as *The Hypnotist*, was released in 1927 and was well ahead of its time. Legend has it that people ran screaming from cinema showings. One guy committed a murder in Hyde Park, and in his defence he said that Lon Chaney's acting was so powerful, it had driven him to kill. To top all that off, the film's *only* copy was destroyed in a studio fire at MGM in the 1960s, so it's lost forever. Its mystery and notoriety make it a fantastic subject matter. That said, I originally got the idea when somebody said that I look like Lon Chaney's character. I'm not sure if that's complimentary, but I can see what he means!

What's the actual plot of the show?

We're setting our version in London in 1665 – the year of The Great Plague. It features five iconic London locations, and starts with a murder. One location is Bedlam, the famous London asylum. There are also murders in Highgate Cemetery, the Tower Of London and London's South Bank where our freak show is set – back in those times, the South Bank was a centre for performing arts, with bear-bating shows and Shakespeare's Globe. The end of our show reveals who the murderer is, and culminates with the Great Fire of 1666.

What made you select that time period?

The imagery is incredible. Plague doctors from that time were fucking weird looking. That →

“THERE HASN'T BEEN A CIRCUS IN A WEST END THEATRE FOR OVER 100 YEARS”





alone will scare you! It also gives us a chance to have plague victims crawling all over the audience. And because the plague started with rats, we'll make the audience believe that there are rats running around the theatre. The performance is going to be on the stage, overhead, and *in* the audience.

Was the Tod Browning film set during the Great Plague as well?

No, that's just our take on it. Amazingly, I don't think there's anyone alive today who would have seen the original film. It was shown in cinemas in 1927, and was a massive hit – it grossed \$500,000



and was the most successful collaboration between Chaney and Browning. But to have seen it you would need to have been at least 20 back then, which would make you 106-years-old now. Stills from the film still exist, and somebody tried to make another version using those images, but it's not the same. I read the synopsis of the film, but it was too complicated to stage as a circus performance, so we spun our own version.

Are there any exciting new performances that you can tell us about?

We've brought a dislocating contortionist from Russia who's never been seen outside his country before. He'll be performing a scene like the one from *The Exorcist* on a giant bed, which will look spooky and surreal. Specifically for the London shows we'll also have special guest appearances, including superstar freak show acts such as skin-stretching man Gary Stretch who doesn't tour with us any more.

You mentioned Simon Drake earlier. Will you borrow any of his grisly illusions for the tour?

Yes, because I tend not to use the same illusions every year in order to keep the show fresh. I actually already own some of Simon's illusions, including the iron maiden that Bruce Dickinson 'died' in during his farewell Iron Maiden show, when he left the band in the 1990s. I also have the 'arm choppers' which lobbed off the guitarists' hands in the same show.

"I THINK EVERYONE SHOULD READ BIZARRE!"

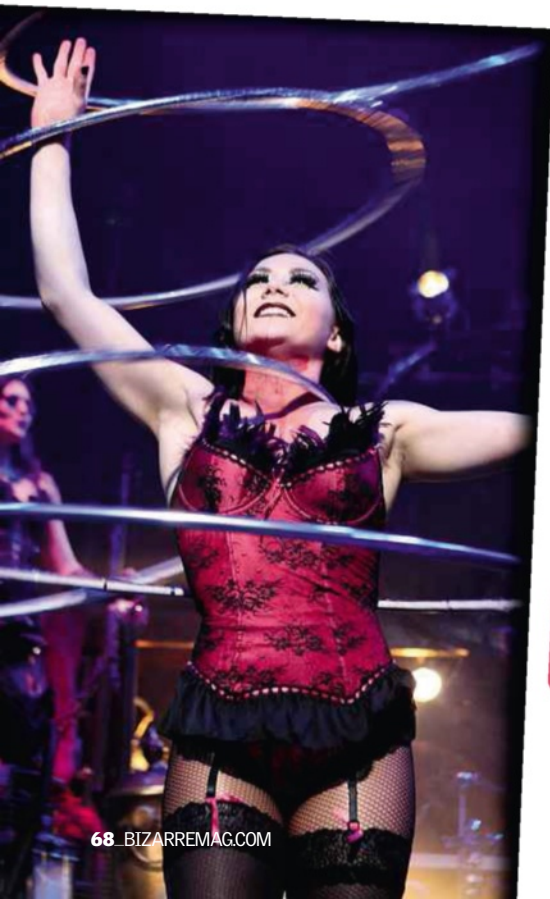


That is an incredible piece of rock memorabilia to own. Do you give the iron maiden pride of place in your lounge?

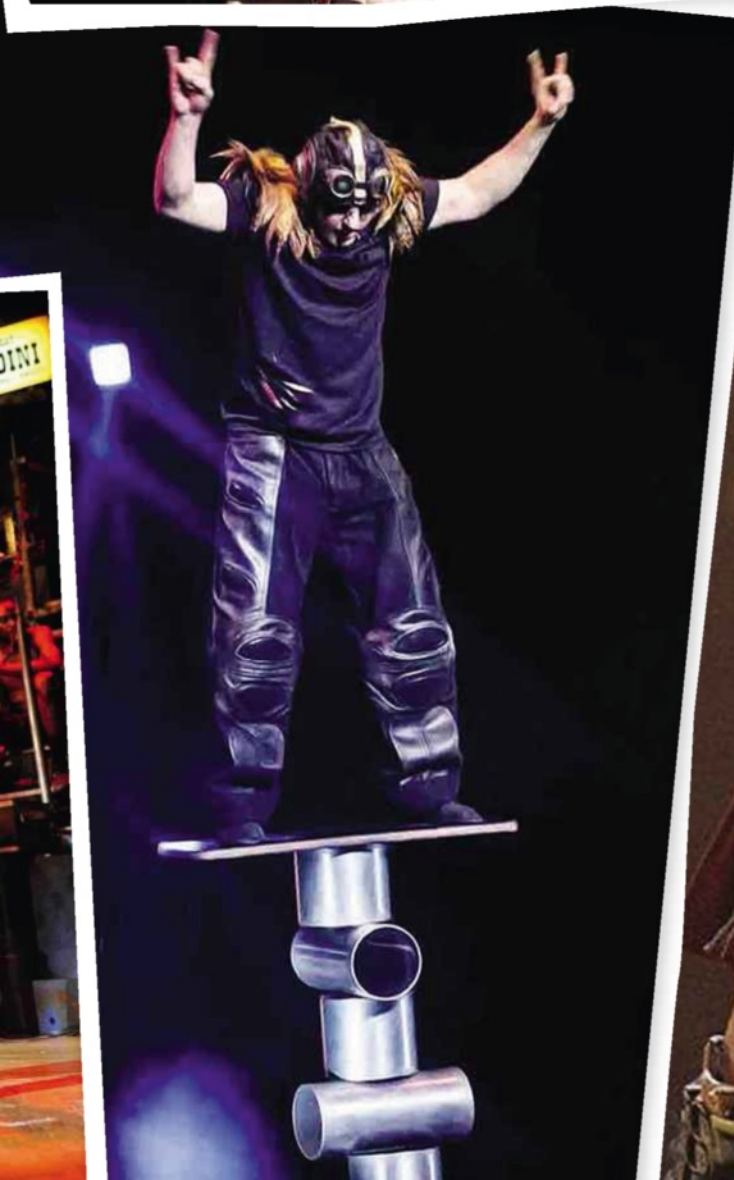
It sure is great, but I have to keep it in a storage container. It's *far* too big to put in my front room!

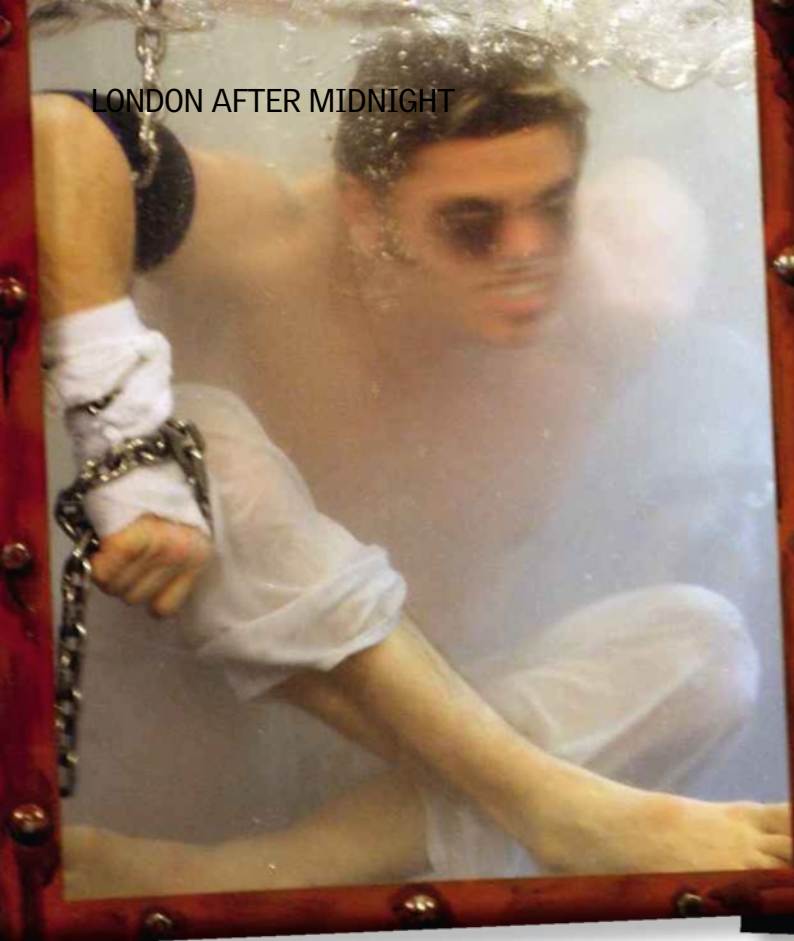
With your new tour being your biggest yet, do you find that The Circus Of Horrors also has a hardcore fanbase that follows you everywhere?

It's our 18th anniversary this year, and I asked on Facebook if anyone had been to our original Glastonbury performances, and I was surprised how many people came forward. →



**"LON CHANEY'S
ACTING DROVE
SOMEBODY TO
MURDER"**





"WE'LL HAVE PLAGUE VICTIMS CRAWLING ALL OVER THE AUDIENCE"

At the end of our shows I've recently started meeting people in the foyer as they're leaving – predominately because it's a good time to sign copies of my book! I was amazed to meet some fans who said that they'd seen us around 120 times. We had one guy who flew over from Japan to see us at the Edinburgh Festival, and then in

Germany. Two years later we finally played in his homeland. It's crazy, but we do have a legion of fans following us all over the place. I'd like to do a feature in our next programme on people with Circus Of Horrors tattoos. There seems to be lots of people with the Circus Of Horrors logo tattooed on them and, bizarrely,

quite a few with portraits of me – including the lady who bought the devil doll. One guy even got the barcode from one of my albums tattooed on his neck.

What are the tattoo portraits of you like?

They're all really amazing, especially one that a chap called Robert Waterfield owns. I was shocked when I saw that.

Do you have any tats of your own?

No, I must be the world's only freak with no tattoos! **B**

For details on The Circus Of Horrors' new tour and all the latest news from Haze's crew, visit CircusOfHorrors.co.uk



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Bran Castle, often
dubbed Dracula's Castle

FEAR AND LOATHING IN TRANSYLVANIA

Castles, Carpathians and cock-shaped dinners: weird things are afoot as *Bizarre* makes a seven-day pilgrimage to Transylvania, home of Bram Stoker's fictional Dracula and birthplace of the real Vlad The Impaler...

WORDS **STEPHEN DAULTREY**
PICTURES **TRANSYLVANIA LIVE, BRITAIN KITTEN**

According to the storybooks, Transylvania is a mysterious, fog-encroached world of vampires, wolves and terrified peasants. Embarking to a land steeped in such mystery promises the traveller a trip to remember – but while you'll have read about the region's fairy tale castles and time-forgotten villages, you rarely hear about its genital-shaped

dinners and kidney stone carvings. I expected Transylvania to be memorable, but I wasn't anticipating how strange that 'memorable' might be... but I do mean that in a good way.

Many people regard Transylvania as a fictional place, existing only in Gothic tales. In reality, it's a region of Southeast Europe that, along with Wallachia and Moldavia, forms modern day Romania. Much of its fame can be attributed to Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula* (1897), whose eponymous Count was a bloodsucking hermit

residing high in the Carpathian Mountains. But it's also where the children were spirited to in incarnations of the creepy folk yarn *Pied Piper Of Hamelin*, and birthplace of that most iconic of vegetarians, Count Duckula.

Not all of Transylvania's folk (anti)heroes are fictional, though. It's most famous son is Vlad III, a ruthless 15th century prince who also went by the patronymic name Dracula, and whose prowess in torture partially inspired Stoker's novel. Born in Transylvania in 1431,



this on-off ruler of Wallachia impaled his enemies on giant stakes, thus earning himself the terrifying moniker of Vlad Tepes (translated as Vlad The Impaler). Historians speculate that tales of mass impalements were exaggerated, so that Vlad could put the willies up his more powerful enemies, but historical documents support the fact that, when it came to sadism, he was top of the props.

In recent decades, gory tales of Vlad Tepes and Stoker's *Dracula* helped to create a bustling tourist trade in Transylvania. Sadly, the region's economy was badly hit by the global financial crisis, and its countryside is now littered with abandoned factories and derelict houses. Tourism also seems to have been affected by the economic downturn, as some of the Dracula-themed attractions I visited weren't exactly busy. But there are still tour companies offering fantastic Dracula-themed tours of the region, including the prestigious Transylvania Live, with whom I decided to travel.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, THEN

Plumping for the company's seven-day Dracula Tour, our pilgrimage begins with a short drive from Romania's capital Bucharest to the medieval

"THE TRUE WHEREABOUTS OF DRACULA'S BONES REMAINS A MYSTERY"

monastery of Snagov, which is situated on a quaint islet across a lake.

Inside the beautiful church is a grave marked with the name Dracula, and it's here that monks were said to have buried the remains of Vlad Tepes. This has been contested, though, and an excavation in 1933 revealed that the only body buried in the church still had its head attached. And as Vlad Tepes' noggin was apparently lopped off following his death in battle in 1476, the true whereabouts of Dracula's bones remain unknown.

There's less mystery a few miles away at the ruins of Vlad Tepes' palace at Targoviste. Though reduced to a pile of crumbling bricks, with a lone tower skewering the clouds, the ruined palace still evokes the ghost of Dracula. It's from here in the mid-1400s that the deadly prince ordered 20,000 invading Turkish soldiers – who claimed that

Wallachia belonged to the Ottoman Empire – to be impaled in a nearby field. This mass-impalement wasn't just a way to punish enemy troops in the nastiest way possible, but also a ploy to scare off subsequent invaders. And when further Ottoman soldiers marched on Targoviste, it's said that they were so appalled by the sight of their comrades wriggling on bloodied poles that they instantly fled in fear and disgust. I don't blame them.

Both Snagov and Targoviste are in Wallachia, but it's not long before we begin our ear-popping ascent into Transylvania itself, towards the imposing Carpathians – a 932-mile long, conifer-clad mountain range that stretches across the region. We pass the grassy area where the Ottoman soldiers were executed, then drive through a gypsy village where two women are clawing at each other in a local dispute. When jokingly asked if we can stop to watch the scrap, our tour guide Claudiu shakes his head and slams his foot on the accelerator.

Snagov Monastery – site of Vlad The Impaler's mysterious grave



My dearest Bizarre,
Stopped off at the Golden Crown Restaurant in Bistrita, ahead of a tiring journey along the Borgo Pass towards the Count's castle. Indulged in a most undelicious meal of pure pig lard and a ball of cheese with a ridiculous funny face on it – apparently the same meal eaten by Jonathan Harker in the novel. He described it as 'cat meat'.



DRACULA HOT TRAVEL

Unique Places

© 2012 Age. photo

Dear Bizarre,

Tonight we stayed in the small town of Turda, in an incredible hotel described as a 'medieval fantasy with beds'. But for dinner we were served meat and polenta shaped as a cock and balls! No-one finished the shaft and the peas looked like an STD.

PRIORITAR
PRIORITAIRE

2012

This is Romania



MAKING A GOOD POINT

Our first stop in Transylvania is in the vibrant city of Brasov, which was once a bustling trading centre for thousands of Saxon immigrants, complete with the large 'Black Church' that was smoked in a fire during the 17th century.

The town's bright, boxy Saxon architecture suggests

various states of decay, which create a sea of architectural vomit

against the dramatic, mountainous scenery.

However, perpetuating Transylvania's vampiric romanticism are the carved crosses that pepper the roadsides and villages. According to Claudiu, these Orthodox Christian crosses provide places of worship for neighbourhoods that are too poor to maintain churches. However, further investigation reveals that many are also erected at 'magical' boundaries and on crossroads as a deliberate defence against supernatural threats. Clearly, Romania is still a land steeped in superstitious belief.

Aside from gypsy fights (actually, that was the only one I saw), there are other things that strike you when driving through Transylvania.

Most tragic are the packs of lonely, starving wild dogs, whose sad-eyed presence is a tragic consequence of years of domesticated canines not being neutered. Then there are the endless rows of coloured houses and shacks – all painted in putrid oranges, garish mauves and sickly yellows – in

we may have taken a wrong turn and ended up in an Austrian ski resort by mistake. But behind its colourful, chattering façade there is a macabre underbelly: Vlad Tepes is said to have once impaled thousands of the town's inhabitants as revenge for the part they played in the murder of his father.

Although Vlad Tepes did not invent impalement as a form of torture and punishment, he took it to extremes. While many despots have used the sharpened end of a stake to puncture vital organs, Dracula is said to have preferred the blunt, rounded end, and before a victim's ordeal began he would order guards to lubricate his victims with oil. These unfortunate souls would then be pinned down, their legs spread apart, and the thick, greasy pole forced through their anus until it re-emerged through their mouth. The stakes were then raised slowly towards the sky, and the skewered victim would be slowly dragged towards the ground by their own body weight – an agonising death that could last several days.

Souvenir heaven!
£250 worth of 'Drac Tat'



“CARVED CROSSES PEPPER ROADSIDES AND VILLAGES”

Thousands of men and women, young and old, are said to have perished in this abysmal manner.

There are no such tales of terror linked to Bran Castle, though, which is a short drive from Brasov. A spectacular, fairy tale colossus of opulence and grandeur, Bran is often dubbed Dracula's Castle, but this is misleading – Vlad Tepes probably never stayed there, and the castle is located miles away from the Carpathian fortress in Stoker's novel. Queen Marie of Romania renovated Bran Castle in the 1900s, and gave it a distinctively modern interior. In fact, the scariest thing I encountered there is an uncooked chicken meal served in a local restaurant.

Our next stop is the fortified citadel of Sighisoara, the medieval town in which Vlad Tepes was born. Bordered by well-preserved walls, its cobbled walkways, rickety clock tower and burned-out dungeon all add to the town's magical charms. Vlad Tepes' birthplace was once an old merchant house, but it has now been converted into a tourist restaurant, recognisable by its cartoon 'Dracula' sign creaking in the breeze outside.



The medieval
citadel of
Sighisoara



Nothing to do with
the holiday... this is
how I sleep at home



After savouring Sighisoara's medieval time warp, our tour switches focus to the vampire in Stoker's classic novel. And it's at this point that the trip starts to get weird...

To begin with, we're driven to the Golden Crown in Bistritz, a tourist hotel built to replicate the fictional place where Jonathan Harker – the lawyer in Stoker's novel – snacks before journeying to the Count's castle.

We're anticipating a rustic inn with buxom waitresses in traditional Romanian dress. Instead, we discover a hulking building in the midst of renovation, with a corporate air that makes the Holiday Inn feel like a Shakespearean tavern.

Curiouser still, the Harker meal we're served is a plate of near-inedible pig fat with a dollop of cheese sporting a comical face. In *Dracula*, Harker said his meal included "bacon, onion and beef, seasoned with red pepper". I don't recall anything about a cheese-ball resembling a grinning snowman. If Harker polished off this cholesterol-fest, it's likely he would have dropped dead from heart failure before he made it to the Count's gloomy abode.

COCK FOR DINNER?

Next we follow Harker's trail to the Count's castle along the mystical Borgo Pass, high up in the Carpathians.

Jonathan Harker ate this? Pull the other one!



84-year-old cobweb artist, Emil Muresan

THE AMAZING SPIDER WEB MAN

In the city of Medias, we meet 84-year-old outsider artist Emil Muresan, who makes pictures with cobwebs. He also sculpted his kidney stone into a figurine. He's a pretty cool dude...



How long have you been making art with cobwebs, and what first prompted you?

Since 1998. My wife was always moaning at me to clean the cobwebs from our birdhouse. One day I went there and saw sunrays falling on the webs and had a bolt of inspiration to use them in my art. But I was ashamed at first. I didn't show anyone my art for the first four years.

Why were you ashamed?

Using cobwebs was new and I wasn't sure if it was art or not. I was traditionally a sculptor. But when I exhibited the art at a festival in 2002 I had massive success. People were fascinated and I did TV and radio interviews.

How long does each painting usually take?

I started 'painting' boats, which were easy. But after 10 years, as I became more specialised, I made characters from fairy tales, portraits and ballerinas. They take about a week to make.

(There is also a giant ship in Emil's studio, which he claims took two years.)

Where do you find the cobwebs?

In abandoned houses and village barns. Every spider web has a different colour depending on the location. If it's dusty, the sediments give the webs different colours.

Is it a tricky material to work with?

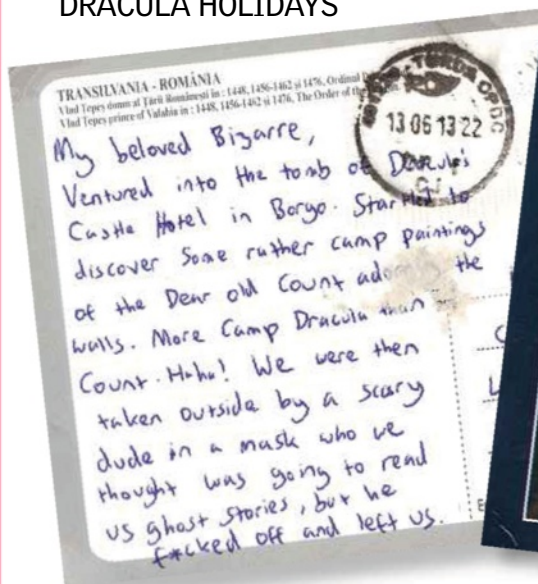
It was difficult at the beginning because spiders are carnivores and they often sting me. I have anti-tetanus injections twice a year to stop infection. But the biggest challenge is collecting the cobwebs: I use cardboard to stop them from sticking to each other. If it's rainy, they also stick to my hand.

Do you sell your art?

A collector from India bought four paintings and a collector from Australia bought another. I try not to sell many, otherwise I would have nothing to exhibit!



DRACULA HOLIDAYS



Harker circumnavigated this mountain passage by stagecoach, but we do it in a minibus that stinks of booze, sweat and farts.

Our destination is Hotel Castle Dracula, a newish tourist attraction built to replicate the novel's fictional castle. The hotel has a faux-medieval splendour, and the views it affords of the Carpathians are divine. Now I genuinely feel immersed in all that is Gothic and romantic. This feeling, however, only lasts until dinnertime when the hotel staff begin playing Elton John records. Suddenly we're whisked away from brooding, whimsical Southeast Europe and into Greasy Ken's Diner on Bethnal Green Road.

Incredulously, Hotel Castle Dracula's dining experience is incomparable to the one that awaits us in the city of Turda. Booked into the Hunter Prince Castle, a stunning medieval fantasy retreat with stone walls and stuffed animals, we are served

a meat and polenta dish that's been laid out to resemble a large cock and balls. Oh, and there's some unidentifiable creamy goo. What is the chef thinking? The meat's thick, rubbery texture only heightens its unappetising appearance. Any table etiquette is swiftly jettisoned and conversation erupts into a battle of drunken banter with such queries as "is anyone eating the shaft?" and "are the peas supposed to be chlamydia?"

Bellies stuffed with pretend penis, the vampirish mood returns when, outside the hotel, a group of actors re-enact a traditional vampire-killing ritual, faithful to Romanian folklore.

During the Middle Ages, many people in Eastern Europe believed that undead souls known as Strigoi could return from the grave. These cursed horrors would feed on the life of normal folk, and to 'kill' a Strigoi one had to wear garlic while hammering a stake through its rotting heart.

Not surprisingly, Bram Stoker took inspiration for his modern vampire from these ancient rituals. However, the writer researched his novel from the comfort of the British Museum in London, without ever setting foot in Transylvania (what a cheat). And while Vlad Tepes was the main historical influence on his tale of terror, inspiration for *Dracula* also came from Hungary in the form of Elizabeth Bathory (1560–1640), the noblewoman who, legend has it, bathed in the blood of virgins to rejuvenate her skin.

More fierce entertainment awaits us in Sibiu, another beautiful town where Vlad Tepes yet again (may have) impaled a huge proportion of its Saxon populace. Here, some local knights demonstrate what warfare was like in Dracula's time. These hulking athletes – lovely guys when not twirling 4ft broadswords – hit each other full-force using heavy replica weapons that have been blunted

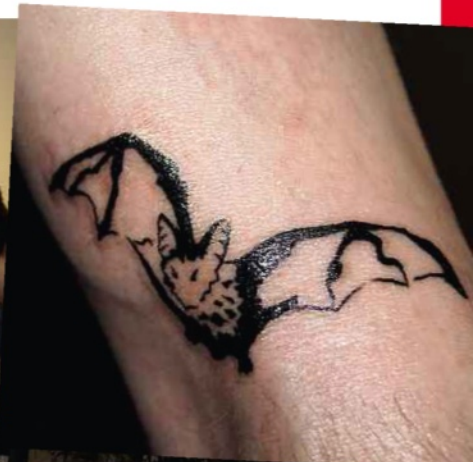


Paying respects to Bram Stoker at Hotel Castle Dracula





Our crazy tour guide Claudiu tries to hang himself in Sighisoara



“CONTRADICTIONS, **TOURISTY DAFTNESS** AND DARK HISTORY”

to ensure they don't lose limbs. One of the warriors, a burly chap weighting at least 20st, shows me several career scars from his chosen hobby. His injuries have included 14 fractured fingers, three smashed wrists, a cracked collarbone, a shattered jaw and a broken nose. He also tells me that he competes in a yearly re-enactment event in Poland, which features two organised armies of 300 soldiers battering each other to bits. He says the Russians are the best at it.

WILL THE REAL DRACULA CASTLE PLEASE STAND UP?

While the last three days of our trip were remarkably surreal (and that's without even mentioning the Camp Dracula in a hotel crypt, bonfire stories with a masked 'scary dude' who doesn't speak English, and the 84-year-old artist who carves a figure out of his kidney stone), the final day of the tour rewards us with a visit to the ruins of Poienari Fortress, situated bloody miles away in the northeast corner of Transylvania.

Sometimes dubbed the 'real Dracula castle', it's a small military fortress strategically built on a steep cliff precipice, making it almost impossible for invaders to storm. Originally constructed in the 13th century, Vlad Tepes had the fortress expanded during his reign, and worked disgraced noblemen to death during its gruelling construction. It's also here that Vlad's wife is said to have died, choosing to jump from its high walls rather than be captured by Ottoman forces. But the fact that Poienari is in a semi-ruinous state has little to do with warfare, and more to do with an earthquake in 1915.

The drive to Poienari is otherworldly, and amongst the highlights are a river that shimmers in the golden sunlight as lightning crackles over the greying horizon, and the ghostly stone stump of The Red Tower, so-called because it was once splashed in the blood of Turkish soldiers.

Once at Poienari, we have to climb a lung-busting 1,480 steps to reach its summit. My sympathies go to the souvenir shop guy, who endures this hike every day... though his thighs must be huge. Meanwhile, our own superhuman 64-year-old tour guide races to the top, barely breaking a sweat and making a mockery of my pale, weakening form skulking behind. At the top, the view is epic.



With our fun and crazy pilgrimage complete, our group returns to Bucharest and disbands with some emotional man-hugs and kisses. It's here that I realise I must have spent at least £250 on kitsch Dracula-themed souvenirs, or as we came to nickname it 'Drac Tat'. My personal highlight is a goggle-eyed wood carving of Vlad Tepes' chiselled mug, purchased in Sighisoara, with hair that sways regardless of whether the windows are open or shut. But I still can't resist departing without acquiring the ultimate in Dracula-themed souvenirs: a vampire bat, tattooed on my arm by the guys at Roxy Tattoo (Roxy-Tattoo.com). How's that to end the trip, eh?

And so there you have it: Transylvania is a startling place of swirling contradictions, with phenomenal landscapes, touristy daftness and a dark, compulsive history that is unsurpassable for anyone who enjoys Gothic thrills.

At its most romantic, visiting Transylvania is like being sucked inside an ethereal fairy tale. At its most touristy, it's like getting stuck on a fairground ghost ride in Essex. Trying to cram in all the region's history and wonderful sights in seven days is a crazy, impossible task – but as an intense, testing and, at-times, hilarious taster of these fey and fascinating lands, these tours won't be forgotten easily. Would I recommend it? Of course I would. Romania is beautiful. But I wouldn't recommend ordering the cock... **15**

Big, hearty thanks go out to Claudiu and the awesome people at Transylvania Live for all their hard work. If you fancy a holiday with them, head to Visit-Transylvania.co.uk and check out their full selection of Dracula-themed tours



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TASTE FOR

BLOOD

If you thought drinking blood was a habit exclusive to vampires, think again. Meet the real-life Californian girl with a genuine taste for the lovely, flowing red stuff...

You don't have to scratch deep to find the erotic subtext in most vampire yarns. From *True Blood* to supernatural grot flicks such as Harry Sparks' *The Vampire Mistress*, mainstream culture has often portrayed vampires as kinky buggers.

But while nibbling on the necks of virgins is traditionally the domain of Gothic fantasy, there are people in the real world who exhibit a similar craving for blood. Whether it's savouring claret from a crystal tumbler or licking a lover's fresh wound, it's an extreme infatuation known as blood fetish or, you guessed it, vampire fetish.

Michelle Navarette is a talented tattooist, artist and art curator from the Antelope Valley, northeast of Los Angeles, and she describes blood as "beautiful". Michelle has been drinking animal blood daily for nearly a decade, and often uses blood in her captivating art works. Her most recent painting is a portrait of Vlad III entitled 'The Darkest Prince' (pictured overleaf), named after the 15th century Wallachian prince who, according to legend, drank the blood of his foes from a goblet.

Michelle's haemoglobic pursuits don't always involve painting, though; her primary passion is drinking blood, and ultimately for the consensual supping of human blood from partners or close friends.

Last year, Michelle's thirst for the red stuff saw her featured on the American TV series *My Strange Addiction*. But despite indulging in the act of drinking blood – and the fact that a lust for blood is often termed 'clinical vampirism' or even 'Renfield Syndrome', named after Count Dracula's assistant in Bram Stoker's novel – Michelle is keen to distance herself from mainstream conceptions of vampirism. For her, bloodsucking has deeper, more profound meanings, and she says it's something to be celebrated, not feared.

"The social take on what vampires are is based entirely on movies and books," says Michelle. "It's common to affiliate something →



Left: 'The Suffering'

Below: Michelle used blood to paint her portrait of the real-life Dracula, Vlad III

Bottom left: 'Solitary Woman' painted entirely in blood



"I DRINK LITRES OF ANIMAL BLOOD EVERY WEEK"



that drinks blood with being a beast or something equally negative. But there's an extensive history about vampirism that people overlook. Do I love vampire films? I sure do. Are they the reason that I drink blood? Most definitely not!"

YOUNG BLOODS

Though charismatic, Michelle is a self-confessed "outsider" with a striking alternative look that includes a cool mane of jet-black hair. She first became smitten with red bodily fluid when she was "eight or nine-years-old" having accidentally cut herself. She remembers being bewitched by the thick red liquid trickling from the wound. "I thought it was really pretty, and when I tasted it, it just stuck," she recalls. "My interest was also fuelled through living in a Republican town where so many things are taboo. Blood became my private, dangerous thing. I couldn't understand why other people were afraid of it. I still don't."

Michelle, who's just turned 30, drinks animal blood as part of her daily diet, and consumes between two-to-four litres a week. But given that blood contains high levels of iron, drinking any more would put her at risk of an iron overdose, a serious condition that damages internal organs and could be fatal.

The vast majority of blood that she consumes comes from pigs, and occasionally cows, which she purchases from Asian food stores that often use blood in their cuisine. But it wasn't until Michelle left home in her early 20s that she began guzzling the red stuff on a regular basis. "I couldn't just store it in my parent's fridge next to their milk," she laughs. "When I moved out, I could keep myself well-stocked."

For Michelle to share what it is that she loves about blood requires a broad answer. The simple response is "everything". But to break that down, 'everything' includes its look, smell and taste, and

the way that it ebbs, flows and glistens. But this isn't just an aesthetic love affair. Michelle hints at deeper, more spiritual reasons at work – the inherent power of blood. "Everything living is derived from blood; the life source of existence," she says. "It's like how water is to this planet, blood is to life. There's no greater sense of power than that. I don't think of blood as something that's necessarily sexually stimulating, it's bigger. I find it to be kind of... mystical. It's also the one thing that connects humans to everything else."

LICKING WOUNDS

As a daily blood drinker, Michelle has acquired a taste for the liquid's flavour. She describes pork blood as being "more gamey" than beef, because of its higher iron count. But she says that the taste of human blood depends on the iron and protein in a person's diet, with high levels of both making it especially salty.

Drinking blood from humans is Michelle's preferred quaff, primarily because of the intimacy of bloodsucking, and she admits that she feels "a profound spiritual connection" to anyone whose blood she consumes. She has "several friends" that she is able to drink from, and does so when she can. Some pals enjoy it, she says; others do it out of curiosity, challenging their fear.

Extracting blood requires the donor to make "a little nick", usually on their arm. However, because a person's arms scar more visibly, Michelle prefers "the upper shoulder, or – like in so many vampire films – on the inner thigh". She oversees the extraction to make sure it is done safely, but refuses to make the cut herself because she doesn't want to be accountable for any mistakes. She also avoids indulging from the same friends too often, wishing to prevent scars that would develop from her thirst. But sometimes things can go wrong... →



A kinky vampire from Harry
Sparks' fantasy BDSM romp
The Vampire Mistress

**"I FIND BLOOD TO BE
KIND OF MYSTICAL"**

VAMPIRE GROT

Film director Harry Sparks talks about his new feature-length vampire porno, *The Vampire Mistress*, which is out on DVD now. Visit TheVampireMistress.com



What is *The Vampire Mistress* about?

It tells the story of a beautiful young reporter named Laura who is abducted by a sinister cult called The Vampire Society. After she is made

into a vampire, Laura must choose to either join the evil Mistress Alison in terrorising the city or use her new powers to bring them down and end their reign of terror.

Is vampire fetishism a big part of the film, or is it more about vampires enjoying sex?

There is some vampire fetishism in the movie, and also some BDSM fetishism. That hasn't been explored too much in previous vampire movies. But whether you are interested in the vampires or the sex, there is something for everyone.

Have you tried to make a film that is erotic, scary and gory?

It's definitely erotic. Because of the BDSM element, some viewers may wince at the intensity of some scenes. At times the film is unsettling, brutal, scary and intense.

You've previously made *Rotkäppchen: The Blood Of Red Riding Hood*. Are you striving to make films that blur the barrier between feature-length fantasy films and adult movies?

Yes, one of my goals is to make adult movies that people will be able to sit down and watch like any other movie. Ultimately, it's about a good story well told. If an adult fantasy film is well made, I think fantasy fans will definitely give it a chance.

What is it about vampires that makes them so sexy, and somehow perfect subject matter for an adult film?

Vampires are such lustful, sexual creatures they fulfill our fantasy of being wanted, desired and seduced, and an adult film is perfect for exploring our vampire fantasies.

Any plans to make more films in this, excuse the pun, vein?

Absolutely! *The Vampire Mistress* is the first part of a trilogy, and I expect the next one will push the envelope even further.



"Once a friend cut himself way too deep, which was horrifying," she says. "He cut his upper arm without me present. When I returned he had this giant, gaping wound. He refused to get stitches at hospital because explaining the wound would be awkward. I actually felt bad because I ended up drinking from the wound before dressing it for him!"

MY CUP FLOWETH OVER

Michelle says she avoided the word 'fetish' when filming *My Strange Addiction* for fear of drawing negative connotations from a mainstream audience, but she has no bones regaling the sexual aspect to *Bizarre*. Given the explicit closeness and bonding nature of sucking blood from a fellow human, Michelle admits that it can become odd when drinking from friends rather than lovers. "I want to avoid the clichés, but it's incredibly erotic, especially for the person I'm drinking from," she explains. "If I'm sucking from a friend, it could easily go further and I don't want it to. I try to keep it platonic."

Blood is "essential" and intrinsic to Michelle's sex life. She's explored her haemo-gobbling ways with past boyfriends, enabling what she describes as "a special connection" with her lovers. One

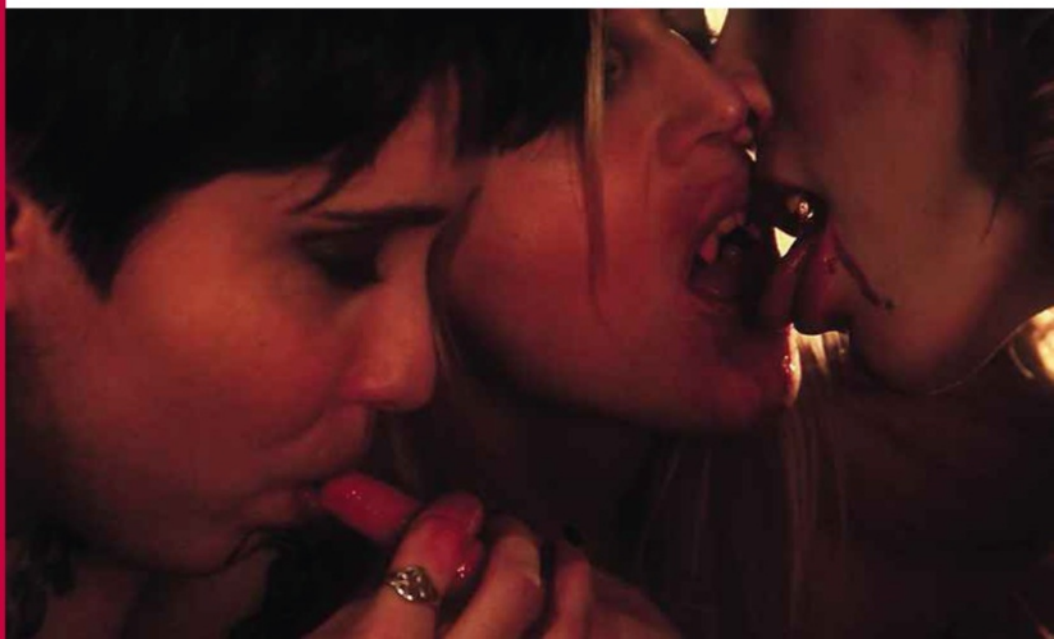
ex-lover was privileged enough to drink from Michelle, which she regards as "a special thing". Her blood interests also branch out into other deviant activities, such as needle and medical play, two forms of BDSM 'edge play' that result in skin being broken and, of course, blood flowing. But Michelle admits that she's still to indulge her ultimate sexual fantasy: getting it on in a bathtub full of claret...

"One of the rumours about Elizabeth Bathory (17th century Hungarian countess) was that she bathed in the blood of virgins to maintain her youth and skin," says Michelle. "I'd just love to bathe in blood with someone and have sex. That's a little harder to get my lovers to do!"

BLOOD SAFETY

Drinking blood from fellow humans is inherently dangerous, not just for the potential of scarring from cutting, but because downing another person's blood puts you at risk from blood-borne diseases. Among the more familiar heavyweight nasties are HIV, hepatitis B and C, and viral haemorrhagic fevers. Michelle insists that she is "well aware" of the many serious risks and gets her blood tested regularly. She also only drinks from "reliable sources".

"I'D LOVE TO HAVE SEX IN A GIANT BATHTUB FULL OF BLOOD"





In a bid to reveal biological damage caused by Michelle's drinking habits, the producers of *My Strange Addiction* took her to hospital for blood tests. Ironically, results showed Michelle to be afflicted with nothing other than anaemia, which is a common blood disorder characterised by a lower-than-normal red blood cell count. This would suggest that Michelle's daily drinking of animal blood (not human) could, bizarrely, carry medical benefits. Michelle says it floored both the doctor and the film crew.

"I watched the doctor try to think of negatives of my blood drinking, because that was why the film crew had brought me there in the first place," grins Michelle, mischievously, who was already aware she had anaemia. "He ended up listing obvious reasons why drinking blood might be dangerous, such as transmitting blood-borne pathogens. He said that there is never really a 'safe' way to drink blood. The show producer then asked if the anaemia could explain why I was so addicted to blood, to which he replied: 'I deal with thousands of people with anaemia, none of whom tell me they drink blood!'"

MUM'S THE WORD

Since appearing on TV, Michelle says that she's started getting fan mail, typically from male

"A GUY SENT ME A PICTURE OF HIS DEEP CUT. YOU COULD SEE THE FATTY TISSUE"

admirers who send her photos of their self-inflicted wounds. Although flattered, the onslaught of grisly snaps is not what she expected or hoped for. "People were asking me if I'd like to drink from their wounds," says Michelle, sounding uneasy. "One guy sent me a photo where he had cut himself way too deep, and you could see his fatty tissue coming out. It didn't gross me out because that's very hard to do, I just felt very bad for him. The caption he sent was, 'Is this good enough?' I was like, 'Uh, yes, perfect, now don't do it again!'"

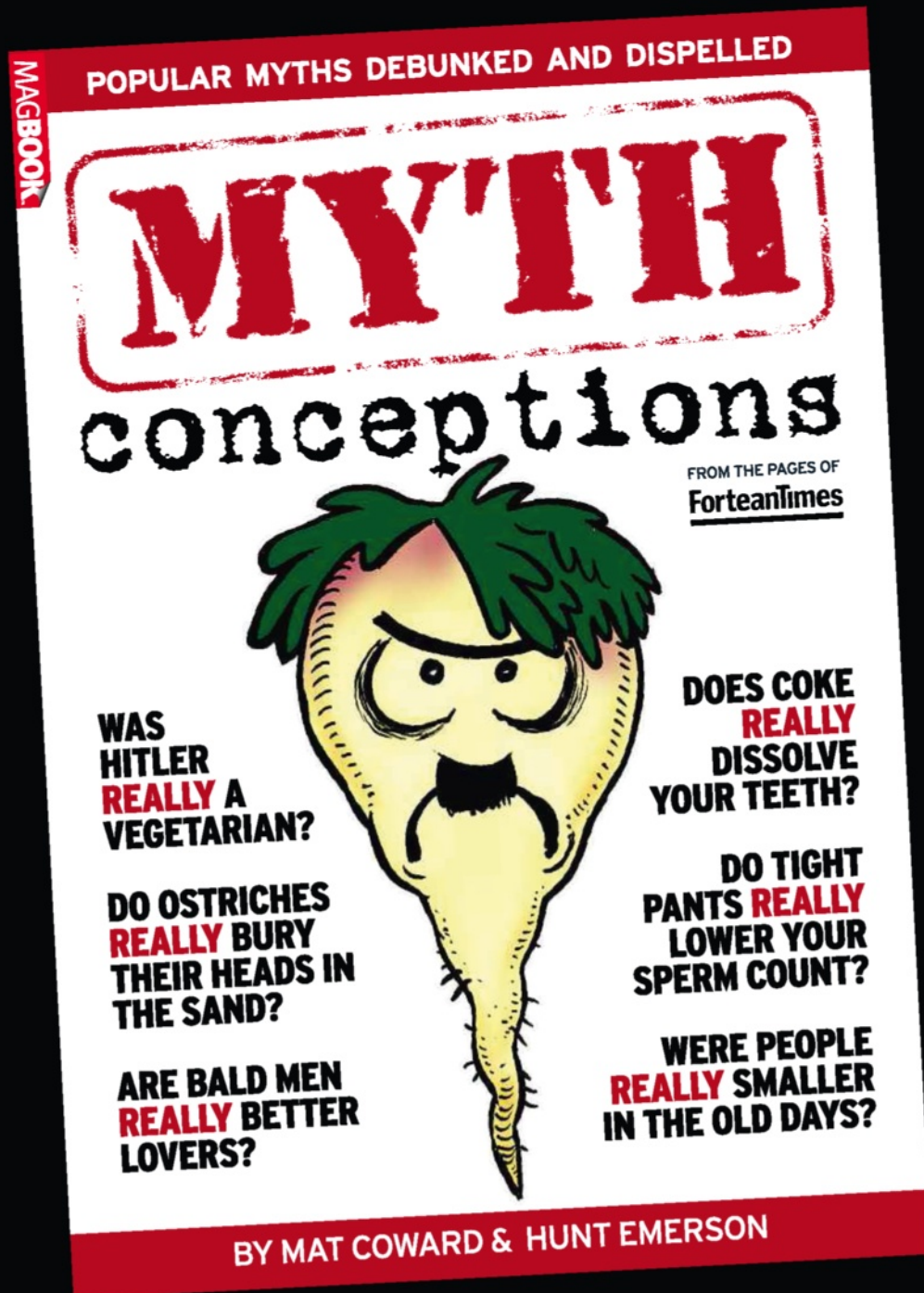
But Michelle admits she has been surprised by the general positive reaction she's received since appearing on TV. Having grown up on the fringes of society, she reveals she is used to being called 'vampire' or 'freak', so has no qualms about "freaking people out". But since *My Strange Addiction*, she confesses, "everyone's

been really nice." In fact, she even reckons the show's producers started developing a curiosity having filmed her for a week.

But would Michelle now feel comfortable stocking bottles of blood in her parent's fridge, since coming out about her "obsession"? Now there's a question... "When I was younger, my fear of getting caught while drinking blood was much greater," she says. "As a teenager, having a growing body is already confusing, let alone having a habit such as mine. But as my mother stated on the show: given who I am, and how odd I always was, very little comes to her as a surprise. Though my family will never tell me my addiction is OK, and much of my extended family does have a problem with it, my mother has my back, and that's the most important!" ¹⁸

If you're interested in Michelle's art, she welcomes you to contact her at Mskyward83@hotmail.com

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We are the CHAP-IONS!

Pinstripes, Pimm's and pristine trouser creases. Britain's most stylish sporting occasion strolls into London for 'Umbrella Jousting', 'Boulder Hunt' and 'Passing The Port'.

Bizarre pretty much comes last of the lot... →

THE CHAP OLYMPICS

It's a sweltering day in July. *Bizarre* is at the ninth outing of the nation's most eccentric sporting festival, the Chap Olympiad, watching two fellows in fine linen suits *not* play tennis on a stage before us.

One competitor rises from his deckchair on the court, flashes a caddish grin, and promptly escorts two ladies towards the nearest drinks tent. Riposting swiftly, his opponent climbs *beneath* the stage and burrows into the ground, hoping to reach a tobacco emporium before closing time. Not a single tennis ball has been served. The commentator calls it 'game, set

and match' to "the tunneller", and the spectators applaud, breaking only to take a sip of that most agreeable summertime thirst-quencher, Pimm's.

While hot weather is the scourge of many sportspeople, especially in a nation like Britain where the phrase "lovely weather" actually means "not raining", it is less of an issue when the sporting events include 'Tea Pursuit', 'Bread Basketball' and 'Not Playing Tennis' which, if it hasn't yet clicked, is where the aim is to play even less tennis than your opponent. In fact, the only impact today's 30-degree heat is having is with those who would rather fry to death in their Victorian frock coats than take them off.

And that is the Chap Olympiad in a nutshell: dressing fabulously, exerting minimal energy, and showing off as little arm-hair as possible.

CARELESS WHISKER

The Chap Olympiad is the annual sporting tournament for those of impeccably smart vintage dress and panache. Created in 2005 by writers of *The Chap* magazine, a popular bimonthly style bible that celebrates dandyism and impeccable manners, it has grown from humble beginnings as a gathering in Regent's Park to become – in *Bizarre*'s eyes – the annual highlight in the British sporting calendar. It now sells out at its lavish, 1,500-capacity garden venue in Bedford Square, London, and is attended by vintage lifestylers (AKA chaps and chapettes) from all across the country. Except maybe from Bradford.

Those brave enough to take part in its eccentric games compete for gold, silver and bronze cravats. But competitive spirit, unless

CHOPPER



What events are you competing in today?

All of them. I really want to win the gold this year.

You fell off the stage in one of the earlier events.

Sore buttocks?

Not at all, many years of training as a paratrooper has

taught me how to fall correctly. Tumbling off the stage is part and parcel of these events.

Have you seen any action as a paratrooper?

No, I absconded and ended up becoming a butler. And then I got fired, so now I'm looking for a new job.

You were almost killed during the 'Umbrella Jousting'...

I was, and that can really get violent. That's why I think the organisers introduced disclaimer forms this year.

Care to describe your attire today?

Well, I was getting a bit hot, almost to the point of becoming the same surface temperature as the sun, so I found some scissors and simply cut my sleeves off. As you do. I'm a lot less hot now.

Hmm. No wonder you were fired as a butler...





“WE ENDORSE SKULDUGGERY, CADDERY AND CHEATING!” GUSTAV TEMPLE

it involves cheating or “raffish gung ho towards opponents”, is traditionally discouraged. Instead, sporting ineptitude and immaculate clothing are what score points with the judges. “It’s about displaying immaculate trouser creases rather than breaking a sweat,” explains *The Chap’s* refined editor, Gustav Temple, whose ceremonial opening of the games revolves around lighting a large Northern Briars pipe. “We do, however, endorse skulduggery, caddery and cheating. Since there are only three prizes, competitors have to show consistency and imagination throughout the day, and also ensure that the tips of their moustaches are still pointing heavenward after an exhausting round of ‘Cucumber Sandwich Discus.’”

While it is impossible not to be bowled over by the dashing apparel on show (a massive doffed hat to one Ian Valentine, who has tailored his own 19th century tail coat “based on a fashion plate from 1811”), the fashion code is becoming a bone of contention.

Immediately after these games, many Olympian regulars peg it onto *The Chap’s* social network pages to air concerns that dressing standards are slipping. Those taking the brunt of the criticism are the men lazily decked out in T-shirts and shorts, while there are also disproving words aimed at those wearing stick-on moustaches. *Bizarre* generally found the attire resplendent, but we did spy one female competitor wearing – SHOCK! – flip-flops. When I raise this outrage to Temple, the sound of him squirming in his vintage double-breasted demob suit can be heard all the way down to Savile Row.

“I missed that sartorial domination and would have had her discreetly removed to the nearest shoe emporium had I seen her,” he says. “We are considering stricter enforcement of the dress code, since a few chaps were seen in short trousers this year. We are also planning to completely ban the stick-on moustache, which in my opinion is worse than a stick-on hairstyle.” →

ZACK PINSENT



Sir, you are the embodiment of sartorial elegance circa 1866. Please elaborate on your attire.

Today I am wearing an 1840s-inspired outfit, with a waistcoat from 1822 which was embroidered in Scotland in pink silk

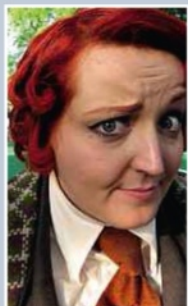
with a cotton base. I made the frock coat myself using kimono silk, lightweight grey linen, and a velvet collar. As a vintage enthusiast, one has the option of spending a fortune going to a tailor. But you can make your own things with amazing success. The tragedy with antique waistcoats is that the ‘backs’ degrade. So I put new ones on them, which is a wonderful way of reusing the past. Vintage attire should be worn to allow others to get a feel for an era because, unfortunately, most history books prove static and uninspiring.

Are you hoping to win the Chap Olympiad?

Winning? That’s not very chappish. Winning by accident is what we go for here. You’ll be bumbling along and then it’ll be: “Oh, I’ve won. How interesting.”



LOUISE XIV



What has been your highlight of today's games?

I dragged a man off the stage by his ankles during the 'Boulder Hunt'.

Had you trained rigorously for this event beforehand?

I am constantly on a hunt for boulders.

I recognise them by smell, sight and sound. I hunt them down like a dog, I pounce, I devour, and then I throw them away like an old shoe.

If memory serves correctly, you were also rather fierce during the 'Briefcase Phalanx'.

I am not afraid to meter out the violence as I see necessary. If somebody needs a bit of corporal punishment, I will get the job done. Otherwise what crimes are these people going to be committing on the streets? Robbing shops? Mugging ladies?

Indeed. How would you describe your attire today?

I live a bit of a cultural mash-up. For dinner I might have Japanese, Italian and Polish all on one plate. So why not do that with my outfit? I'm a smorgasbord, a veritable buffet of sartorial tastes.



COLONNESE



Do you train obsessively for the Chap Olympiad?

Every day. I also eat a lot of pasta and tomatoes, and rub olive oil in my eyes.

You bent an 'iron bar' on stage this year.

Are you stronger than last year?

Last year I was lifting

a giant barbell and my one-ton weight in one hand. But I also had my daughter with me who helped a bit.

What are your best events?

I excel at the 'Briefcase Phalanx' and 'Umbrella Jousting'. Most people are terrified of my bristles. I'm even scared by my own presence sometimes.

One may suggest you don't fit the quintessentially chap mould, if such a thing exists, with your attire...

I feel one has to fall outside if one wants to get noticed. I can wear a suit and look absolutely fabulous, but why would one do that when I can look great in a leopard skin?

Quite. I imagine you could also pull off a convincing Dracula-style Gary Oldman...

That has been noted a few times, but the last time it was discussed I thought the person was referencing Gary Coleman from 1970s sitcom *Different Strokes*.

JOLLY GOOD SPORT!

While many may consider the events secondary to the prestige of looking dapper, they are, in fact, incredibly entertaining for their bold British eccentricity and a highlight for the rows of picnicking spectators. Last year's gaming highlights included 'Shouting At Foreigners' and 'Butler Baiting'. This year, favourites such as 'Umbrella Jousting' and 'Tug Of Moustache' return, while others are politely bundled aside for new introductions such as 'Beach Volley Bowler' (volleyball with a bowler hat) and 'Well Dressage', which challenges competitors to perform a dance routine on a hobbyhorse.

In one of only two events *Bizarre* competes in, I embarrassingly score a pathetic '4' '4' and '1' (out of possible '10's) in the 'Well Dressage'. This is immediately trumped by the rest of the field,

including last year's gold cravat winner, Edward Marlowe, who scores "all the points in the world" for performing his musical trot "while smoking a lit pipe". Further imagination is exhibited in other events, including the rascal who is disqualified for "tart thumbing" in the 'Bakewell Tart War'.

Gustav admits that he is always astounded at the imagination shown by competitors, who sometimes smuggle in props to help their cause. "One chap once brought an elaborate home-made rocket from which to launch his plate of cucumber sandwiches during the 'Cucumber Sandwich Discus'," he says, reminiscing over some of his favourite moments from past games. "My proudest moment has to be including 'Shouting At Foreigners' as an event, then being asked by a Canadian journalist why this was supposed to be funny, thereby proving our point."





It is observed, however, that a few of today's events are becoming uncharacteristically feisty – possibly owing to the free-flowing Pimm's. During the much-loved 'Umbrella Jousting', which is essentially medieval jousting with lances and horses swapped for brollies and bicycles, overly-eager combatants are increasingly dismounting their antiquarian steeds to give their opponents a ruddy good what for.

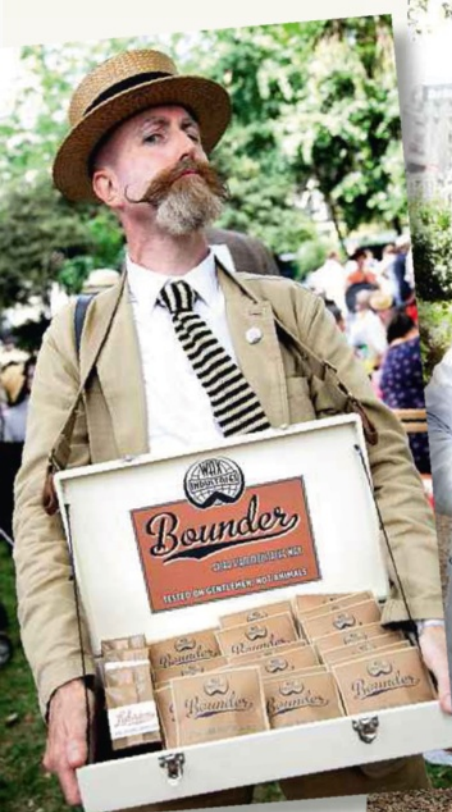
As for the entertaining new event of 'Boulder Hunt', where chapettes catch male boulders in giant butterfly nets, the stage almost transforms into a WWE Royal Rumble, albeit one comprising remarkably dashing dress. In one instance, a lady in tweed respectfully carries off her catch like a babe-in-arms.

The Chap Olympiad committee, which meets each year and is headed by the games' co-creator, Torquil Arbuthnot, admits that it will be addressing certain salient points for next year's merriment. This includes curbing the use of violence and tackling the issue of wrinkled tablecloths. "We will devise new events and polish up the new ones this year that need improving. For example, I noticed that a tablecloth was absent during 'Bread Basketball', and some of the cutlery had been laid incorrectly," says Temple. "We also plan to create events that highlight the elegance and dandyism of the

Chap Olympics, rather than some of the slightly violent behaviour displayed during some of the events we had this year."

And if there is one thing that I personally need to address myself, especially if I am to avoid becoming an Olympic disgrace, it is overcoming my perpetual inability to grow a robust, well-blossomed Imperial moustache. This year I gave up, and unforgivably resorted to using liquid eyeliner on my upper lip (the shame! The shame!), causing one fellow Olympian to rightfully observe: "Good God man, you seem to have incurred a ghastly smudge under your nose!" If there's one thing that definitely won't be tolerated, it's crimes against facial topiary. You, Sirs, have been warned! **B**

"A CANADIAN JOURNALIST ASKED ME WHY 'SHOUTING AT FOREIGNERS' WAS FUNNY" GUSTAV TEMPLE



EDWARD MARLOWE



What is the inspiration for today's chosen attire?

It's a 1920s sporting look that appeared to me in a dream about *Chariots Of Fire*, which is set at the 1924 Olympics.

Please take us through some of its individual

pieces of resplendent finery...

The blazer is from my old state grammar school in Northern Ireland, where I received a damn good education. The shoes are genuine 1940s two-tone Co-respondent shoes in brown and cream. The trousers are herringbone with twill pattern cotton, and are replicas of the trousers made for the Wehrmacht (German army) during the WW2 period. But they've got a lovely drape and a nice wide leg, and are a beautiful colour. I am afraid, however, that someone did spill port down them during the 'Bread Basket Ball'.

The scars of competing, one would hazard?

Yes, which is why I never wear vintage 1930s suits here. Machine washable trousers and dark colours are the secret to competing in this terribly lively arena.

ARTEMIS SCARHEART



Congratulations on winning 'Not Playing Tennis'. One must be ecstatic with your performance today?

I feel I am better than (Wimbledon tennis champ) Andrew Murray because I won far quicker than he did. People don't want tennis matches

dragged out in the hot sun. So by my jumping off the stage, hiding behind a bush and then tunnelling beneath the stage, I think I most definitely did *not* play tennis better than my opponent Mr Russell Nash.

How do you think Andrew Murray would have fared today?

I think if Andrew Murray had been here today he would be dressed in trainers, shorts and heinous T-shirt, and therefore would not even be allowed to enter in the first place.

Do you have a specialist event at the Chap Olympiad?

It used to be the 'Martini Relay' or 'Pipe-Smoking Relay', both of which have fallen by the wayside as we've moved into the 19th century of the Olympiad.

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THE SQUEALER

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MONSTER MASH-UP!

Nazis + monsters
= *Frankenstein's
Army!* p95

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HOT THIS MONTH

Is your spending limited by the icy grip of recession? Then let us help you choose the best stuff money can buy until the next issue of *Bizarre* hits the shelves on **22 OCTOBER...**

FILM

THE CONSPIRACY

If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise

OUT 11 OCTOBER

Just when you thought 'found footage' flicks were getting tired, debut writer / director Christopher MacBride throws a clever conspiracy theory into the mix.

Unlike most films that use this shaky format, *The Conspiracy* is more thriller than chiller, and it won't be long before you're sucked into this dramatic tale of two citizen journalists examining the secret world of Tarsus, a shadowy society of wealthy and influential individuals with pagan and ritualistic undertones.

You don't have to believe the theories to enjoy the film – but if you subscribe to the idea that we're all sheep being herded by powerful influences beyond our control, you're going to love *The Conspiracy*. Slickly done, and proper creepy stuff.





DVD

FRANKENSTEIN'S ARMY

Putting the world to rights

OUT 30 SEPTEMBER

Over the years Frankenstein's monster has become a gold-plated horror brand, and this outing whips up a perfect storm of memes – reanimated monster soldiers + Nazis = future horror classic!

Russian troops have uncovered a lab that's making super-soldiers out of dead Nazis. The film describes events using a clever retro 'found footage' format

as the whole deal is being filmed for Soviet propaganda.

Central to proceedings is a deranged Viktor Frankenstein, descendant of the main man, who aims to end World War 2 by fusing fascist and communist brains.

Fast and fun work from director Richard Raaphorst, but the real stars are his flesh / machine constructions!

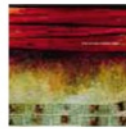
MUSIC

NINE INCH NAILS

Time to get hammered...

HESITATION MARKS

OUT NOW



If rock stars could use their own quotes on their album covers, Trent Reznor's "it's frankly fucking great!"

would be staring at you from download stores and CD racks the world over.

The industrial legends return with their

eighth studio album and their first for five years – and, more importantly, their first since the 'farewell' shows of 2009. After bothering the Oscars with his also frankly fucking great movie scores (such as *The Social Network*), Trent is back to helming some dark, classic NIN sounds. The 14 tracks on here show breadth and diversity. We urge that you show no hesitancy in buying it.



PICTURE BALDUR BRAGSON

GAME

GTAV

This really has to be done...

OUT NOW, PS3, XBOX 360

The reason we didn't go huge on this in the games section is, well, why bother? *Grand Theft Auto V* is the game that has the whole world talking as you read this. *Bizarre* doesn't need to fan such flames. Also, at this present moment, we know

next to nothing that we can meaningfully share. Even if we did, we wouldn't want to spoil it anyhow. So, really, this is just to say to you: "Hey, *GTAV* is out there, make sure you get yours," like the media mouthpiece that we rarely elect to be. A couple of things though: 1. If you have the choice, the PlayStation 3 edition is your better option because it comes on one sexy Blu-ray disc instead of two DVDs for the Xbox 360 – the former obviously lends itself to an open-world game in which toying and froing is the norm. 2. Multiplayer mode. Oh. My. God.



PICTURE EDITION REUSS

BOOK

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MARISA KAKOULAS & EDGAR HOILL



OUT NOW

If you're going to shell-out for these books, you'll need the strength of Arnie to get them in your home! This

box set weighs a ton and contains three beautiful, hardback tomes displaying the most astonishing monochromatic tattoo

art from around the globe. Every piece of work contained inside is truly world-class, and ranges from photorealistic portraits to dark / horror pieces. It may also cost a bomb (RRP is around £260) but, as tattoo collections go, they don't come more spectacular or highbrow. If you're serious about ink, you'll be serious about these books.

FILTH

The latest adaptation of a novel by *Trainspotting* author Irvine Welsh could possibly be the most fucked-up, funniest film of the year

OUT 4 OCTOBER

AS BENT COPPERS GO, DETECTIVE

Sergeant Bruce Robertson (James McAvoy) takes the bastard biscuit. In line for a promotion, he'll stop at nothing to discredit his colleagues and romp home with the title, while at the same time trying to solve a vicious murder. Unfortunately for Robertson, he becomes so embroiled in his nefarious schemes that he loses the plot – an act exacerbated by the copious amounts of drugs he consumes. That's when reality starts becoming a thing of the past.

Screenwriter / director Jon S Baird (who was responsible for cracking football hoolie flick *Cass*) has certainly got to grips with Irvine Welsh's novel about grief-stricken, psychotic self-destruction; he also does a damned fine job of depicting full-tilt cocaine frenzies on screen, as well as the delusion associated with ecstasy (Brit character actor Eddie Marsan's 'loved-up' moment is tear-inducing hilarious). But don't go thinking that *Filth* is a laugh riot, because there's a whole load of darkness going down, too. Baird proves adept at hammering home both the comedy and the tragedy with the subtlety of a sledgehammer, bombarding viewers with a relentless succession of OTT imagery so intense you'll think someone's spiked your drink. But the visuals would amount to squat if they weren't accompanied by the cool performances by everyone involved, particularly McAvoy, who turns in the most deranged and watchable performance of his career.

Filth is British cinema at its most stylish, warped and compelling.



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THE
SQUEALER

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STYLISH AND
COMPELLING



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THIS WAY!**

THE WICKER MAN

THE FINAL CUT

Brothers and their fathers joining hands and make a chain

OUT 27 SEPTEMBER

ON RARE OCCASIONS A FILM

will transcend its cinematic release, enter the public psyche and become a national institution. The original *Wicker Man*, of which this restoration

marks its 40th anniversary, is one of those celebrated classics.

This lusciously restored print finally lays to rest director Robin Hardy's long-held view that the original, edited cinema version lacked the narrative

impact his longer cut delivered. And so here, in all its creepy glory, is the full, unabridged story of what happens when mainland detective Sergeant Howie (Edward Woodward) gets summoned by an anonymous letter to the remote fictional Hebridean isle of Summerisle to investigate the disappearance of teenager Rowan Morrison (Geraldine Cowper).

Devout Christian Howie is disturbed to discover that the islanders

are practicing an earthy paganism under the watchful eye of Lord Summerisle (Christopher Lee). And what transpires is a feast of psychosexual and pagan themes that will confirm your worst fears about enclosed, remote communities.

If rowdy locals in animal masks and al fresco shagging ain't your bag, then you'd best avoid this. But as you're reading this debauched little magazine, you'll probably to love it.



GRAVITY

There's no way back from here

OUT 11 OCTOBER

GIVEN ITS TITLE, IT'S IRONIC

that the villain in this space isolation flick is the *lack* of gravity, and its welcome ability to keep everything together and the right way up.

Sandra Bullock plays Dr Ryan Stone, a medical engineer on her first Space Shuttle mission. She's in a low earth orbit with Matt Kowalsky (George Clooney), who plays the archetypal grizzled space veteran. But when space debris destroys the ship and leaves them adrift, rookie and old-timer have to work together to survive.

Director / co-writer Alfonso Cuarón does a fine job in using excellent pacing and attention to detail to make the perils of zero-gravity seem terrifyingly real. But our favourite bit is how bombastic CGI is deployed to demonstrate the dangers of space junk, where even the smallest piece of debris can have a catastrophic, domino-style effect if it strikes another object in orbit.



A MAGNIFICENT HAUNTING

They're just hanging around...

OUT 4 OCTOBER

PLAYING LIKE A FAIRY TALE FOR

grown-ups, director Ferzan Ozpetek's *A Magnificent Haunting* follows a hopeful young actor as he arrives in Rome to pursue his dreams of a stage career, but finds himself sharing a house with a cast of ghostly thespians.

The phantasmal players are stuck in an actorly limbo, and are convinced that Pietro (Elio Germano) is the key to their release to wherever it is that

ghosts go. So they decide to coach him in the performing arts – a great idea in theory, but Pietro's not a very good actor. He is also having difficulty resolving a gay love affair and distinguishing fact from fantasy.

A beautifully shot piece on acceptance and denial, with a subtle political undercurrent, *A Magnificent Haunting* is an engaging and unique supernatural tale in a genre dominated by shaky 'found footage' chillers.

ENDER'S GAME

Get your game face on

OUT 13 SEPTEMBER

HARRISON FORD AND BEN

Kingsley deliver strong performances in this future alien threat actioner based on Orson Scott Card's novel.

Ender's Game is the story of Ender Wiggin (Asa Butterfield), a gifted child who's being trained to lead resistance against returning extraterrestrials, the

Formics, who were already beaten once due in no small part of the skill of ace fighter Mazer Rackham (Kingsley).

Battle School is where prodigies such as Ender are trained, and Mazer takes the boy under his wing. But while the tough training regime is by way of games, the reality is no less than Earth's ultimate survival.



PIERCING BRIGHTNESS

Turn and face the strange in this home-grown slice of low-key sci-fi

OUT 11 NOVEMBER

PIERCING BRIGHTNESS OPENS

with two Chinese immigrants ambling through a grim town in northern England (Preston, to be exact – which is apparently a hotbed of UFO activity). Well, at least they *look* Chinese...

In reality, the mysterious pair are extraterrestrials searching for members of their race who visited Earth many years ago to study the planet, and have come to bring their pals back home. However, the missing aliens have become so consumed by the Earth's

cultural and societal ways that their original mission has been all but forgotten – and some of them want to stay here so much that they attempt to sabotage the 'collection'.

If you're the sort of film fan who requires pyrotechnic-soaked action spiked with special effects to get your jollies, then stop reading now – *Piercing Brightness* is the antithesis of such flicks. Instead, this low-key sci-fi film is exceptionally arty: regularly splicing urban vistas and trippy looking biological imagery into the narrative,

which at times gives proceedings a William Burroughs-esque feel.

This approach is down to the fact that *Piercing Brightness* is the feature debut of multimedia artist Shezad Dawood and scriptwriter Kirk Lake, who's known for collaborating with video installation artists. What they deliver is an intriguing exercise in exposing the ever-present – though usually unseen – weirdness of everyday things, places and people. It's an ambitious vision that's packed with inventive beauty and capriciousness. **Billy Chainsaw**



AN AMBITIOUS
VISION PACKED
WITH BEAUTY



MORE DVDS
THIS WAY!



HAMMER OF THE GODS

Don't hear the bell but you answer the call

OUT NOW

BARE-CHESTED ANGRY MEN

with sharp, pointy things. No, it's not an ugly scene at an ink convention when someone asks for a Rihanna finger tattoo... *Hammer Of The Gods* is all about Vikings defending the British land they conquered from the indigenous Saxons.

There's a lot of manly growling, pillaging and edged weaponry in director Farren Blackburn's epic,

but underneath the violence and slaughter lurks a solid story about a dying king, separated brothers, power and one man's development as a warrior to achieve lofty goals.

Sturdy central performances belie the film's modest budget: the landscape is suitably brooding and magnificent, and there are even moments of humour to lighten the escalating bloodshed. For fans of quest movies, *Hammer Of The Gods* hits every nail on the head.



HANNIBAL: THE COMPLETE SERIES ONE

Meat to please you

OUT NOW

ALTHOUGH THEY BOTH FOCUS ON the same cannibalistic psychiatrist, it's not fair to think of the slow-burning TV series *Hannibal* as part of the same big screen franchise that spawned taut chillers such as *Silence Of The Lambs*. However, they are all driven by the same compelling paradox: a central character who is despicable, but utterly charming, and who you'll hate yourself for liking.

This television prequel explores the relationship between FBI Behavioural Sciences' Jack Crawford (Laurence Fishburne), Special Investigator Will Graham (Hugh Dancy) and the eponymous forensic scientist and fine diner played by Mads Mikkelsen. In a premise that has undeniable shades of *Dexter*, *Hannibal* sees the savage doctor helping the Feds to solve grisly serial killings, while all the time offing and scoffing people himself.

Well received on broadcast, *The Complete Series One* is a keeper, and the first of several runs that will explore the full Lecter canon.



HERE COMES THE DEVIL

Ever dance with the devil, baby?

OUT NOW

IT'S ALWAYS FRUSTRATING FOR parents when they lose their kids in a vagina-like cave in Mexico, only to discover that the nippers have been possessed by demons when they get them back again. That's more or less

the premise of *Here Comes The Devil*, where director Adrián García Bogliano uses a variety of clever tricks and themes to keep the action fresh, including possession, revenge and the relationship between sex and horror.

A creepy horror flick punctuated by gruesome moments that will live with you long after the end credits have rolled, *Here Comes The Devil* is also deliciously sexy and unnerving. And here at *Bizarre*, that's a combo we're always happy to explore.

THE INITIATION

I'd stay off the cheese at bedtime, love

OUT NOW

KELLY FAIRCHILD IS HAUNTED

by a recurring nightmare in which she finds her parents enjoying some sexy time, and then stabs her father to death with scissors. Then her old man is set on fire by a mysterious stranger. And to make things worse, Kelly has no

memories prior to her ninth birthday, due to a head injury sustained in a fall.

So far, so grisly. Next, Kelly enrolls in university and prepares for initiation into the Delta Ro Kai sorority. Kelly's initiation challenge is to break into her father's store – but as if that isn't bad enough given her nocturnal visions, a bunch of nutjobs have escaped from a nearby loony bin and are intent on slashing young women.

Melodramatic but enjoyable, *The Initiation* is Freudian fare from director Larry Stewart, who also directed episodes of TV series *The Waltons*!



REAL **HORROR** SHOW!



BILLY CHAINSAW

All the latest news from *Bizarre's* free film club, CUT!

“On the off-chance that you're a newcomer to these weird and wonderful pages, CUT! is the *Bizarre* film club that I organise and host once a month in the creepy-as-shit confines of London's legendary Horse Hospital. For just over three years now, I have screened some of the most disquieting, ultra-violent, and head-fuckingly arty movies on offer; all of them an exclusive preview of a yet-to-be released (theatrically or on DVD) flick. We also chuck in a free drink to down while watching.

“The majority of the movies are contemporary. However, when the lovely folk at the British Film Institute offered me the chance to screen a double bill of *The Insomniac* and *Sleepwalker*, frankly I almost bit their arm off. Why? Because both are bona fide cult classics of British cinema, rarely screened since their release dates in 1971 and 1984 respectively.

“Anyway, on the night, proceedings kicked-off with an informative introduction by the BFI's Sam Dunn – believe me, what that guy doesn't know about film isn't worth knowing. To say the audience were rapt by Sam's words of wisdom is an understatement – and they were as equally enthralled when *The Insomniac* rolled.

“Directed by Rodney Giesler (who's best known for his documentary shorts), *The Insomniac* features a working class family man who, evidently feeling trapped by his mundane job and tower block existence, enters a fantasy realm when asleep. As the protagonist gets sucked into a strange world of clandestine debauchery, his slumberland escapism plays like a cross between Stanley Kubrick's *Eyes Wide Shut* and legendary TV show *The Avengers*. Thanks to some racy (for its time) nudity, this intriguing example of arthouse weirdness was X-rated (ye olde cert 18).

THIS
MONTH:
**SLEEPWALKER/
THE INSOMNIAC**

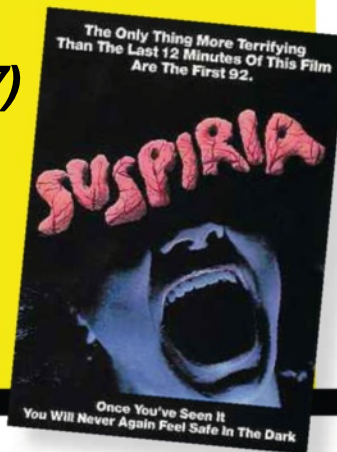
“But as good as *The Insomniac* is, *Sleepwalker* proves the most compelling. Directed by the enigmatic Saxon Logan, it's an outrageous mix of biting satire and blood-drenched horror, and revolves around a one-time wealthy couple who invite friends over for dinner. Their sexually charged evening of rivalry climaxes with a psycho going nuts in an orgy of violence. What elevates *Sleepwalker* from simply being character-driven splatterhouse cinema is the politically allegorical theme. Shame they're not made like this any more.

Sleepwalker and *The Insomniac* are released on Dual Format (Blu-ray plus DVD) along with two short films by Saxon Logan on 23 September 2013

”

IF YOU LIKE **SLEEPWALKER** YOU MIGHT LIKE **SUSPIRIA (1977)**

Cutting to the chase: this is one of the most stylish, innovative and terrifying horror movies ever made. Directed by thrill and fright maestro Dario Argento, it tells the tale of a young trainee ballerina who winds up at a dance school run by a coven of witches. The film's female lead (Jessica Harper in full-tilt traumatised victim mode) is subsequently plunged headlong into an hallucinatory nightmare. Structured like a bizarre fairy tale, Argento assaults viewers with a kaleidoscopic explosion of vivid colour and sinister set-pieces – made all the more effective by a nerve-shredding score by Goblin. Once seen, you'll never forget *Suspiria*.



WHO'S THIS?

Billy Chainsaw is *Bizarre's* Film And DVD Editor, and he also runs our regular FREE film club in London, CUT! (cast your eyes right to see what sick treats Billy has in store at the next screening).

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HOSTED BY
BILLY CHAINSAW
BIZARRE FILM EDITOR

"A TAUT AND
COMPELLING
TERROR-TRIP!"
★★★★



EVERYTHING IN THIS
STORY IS TRUE...
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MUSIC

THE **BEST NEW SOUNDS**
REVERBERATING TOWARDS YOU



KORN

Positivity, stability and big, fat grooves: Bakersfield's loudest denizens celebrate getting 'clean' with a storming new album...

Q&A JAMES SHAFFER - GUITARIST

Some Korn members have said *The Paradigm Shift* is their best record yet. I know it's typical for bands to say that about new albums, but is it something you truly believe?

I think it's the one we're most proud of because it's one of the only records we've written sober. We were able to push ourselves creatively in a way that wasn't previously possible.

Did you notice a big difference during its making?

It was a lot easier to communicate with each other. Ideas were more forthcoming. In the past we'd run into brick walls creatively, or we'd get sidetracked because we felt partying was more important. This time around we were there for the music.

You've got song titles like 'Love & Meth' and 'Spike In My Veins'. Were drug issues something you wanted to explore lyrically?

Yeah, there are some references to addiction and drug use, and it's all from experience. They need to be talked about and Jonathan (Davis – singer) was keen to express them.

It's been commented in the past that your lyrics tend to be 'angry'. Is there an optimistic outlook now?

There's a variation of themes. It's nice because each song is slightly different and our lyrics are overall more mature

There were other things, such as friendships, that needed to fall into place before we could all get into a studio and move forward. But when it happened it was effortless. We grew up with Brian and David. Sometimes you project things in your mind that make everything seem more difficult than the reality actually is. So with David coming back, it's possible...

Brian left the band to get off drugs and focus on his Christian beliefs. Has his faith helped the band?

He brings light and positivity that's needed in any band. He has a positive outlook in general. He's always there to help us, and in the event of any disagreement he is a voice of reason.

The new album has a lot of big songs and potential singles. Was there a conscious attempt to make it so epic and melodic?

We wrote around 21 songs, which were narrowed down to 15. We tried to put our favourite elements in every one: heavy riffs, melody, breakdowns, and big, fat guitar grooves. We also consciously tried to switch the tempos too, like on 'Victimized', which is my favourite song on the record. It's not one of the singles... well, it could be.

Any plans for a European tour?

We'll definitely tour Europe to support the record, which I suspect will start

"BRIAN BRINGS LIGHT AND POSITIVITY THAT'S NEEDED IN ANY BAND"

and meaningful. One track is about Jonathan feeling helpless because his son has diabetes. He was ill for some time and he has to take insulin shots every day. That's very hard for a seven-year-old boy to comprehend.

Has the return of (guitarist and original member) Brian 'Head' Welch made a difference?

It's been great. Brian is very outspoken and gives us a voice. There were many things missing after he left. For me, having him back has also made my job on guitar much easier. I was doing two people's work for so long. Now we have an extra creative mind and Brian's great at writing guitar melodies. When I come up with a rhythm idea, he always makes it better. There's a creative flow happening again.

Do you think that (original drummer) David Silveria might ever return to complete the original Korn line-up again?

I can't say 'no', but right now we're quite happy with the way things are. I never told Brian to come back, even though I always hoped he would.

in early 2014. It's good to give people time to get familiar with the new material and really get into it.

You've been together for 20 years. Can you sum up those decades?

I'm very proud of the band. It has been a fucking roller coaster, especially dealing with the success and members leaving. There's stability again. I feel we've reached a really positive place. I haven't felt like that for at least 10 years with the band.

I must mention the amazing *South Park* episode you did in 1999. Are there any plans to do something like that again?

I loved that! That's one of my favourite things we ever did. It'd be cool for (*South Park* co-creator) Trey Parker to call us up. Maybe we could do a short film with the *South Park* characters. That would be funny. Actually, one of our favourite films is *Team America*. I'd love to do a puppeteer marionette version of Korn. **Would you get Matt Damon to star in it?**

Matt Damon? Of course!



THE PARADIGM SHIFT

OUT 30 SEPT



If there's one thing to say about Korn's 11th studio album in their 20th anniversary year, it's that it's big. Not cheesy, corporate metal kinda big – more five-ton mammoth rampaging-through-your-home kinda big. The band welcomes back Brian 'Head' Welch after the guitarist and Korn co-founder quit in 2005, and *The Paradigm Shift* makes a fine addition to what has been a bloody brilliant year for albums.

Stephen Daultrey

MUSIC

THE BEST NEW SOUNDS
REVERBERATING TOWARDS YOU

ANAMANAGUCHI

Making bold, psychedelic sounds with an old Nintendo console...



ENDLESS FANTASY

OUT 30 SEPT



Geeky four-piece Anamanaguchi make ridiculously colourful rave-rock music using the sound chip from a 1985 Nintendo console. Inevitably, their gaming links see them draw all manner of comparisons, from the press blurb's "they're the Ninja Turtles as a boy band!" to a *Bizarre* friend's "it's Mario forming a remarkably uplifting *Crystal Castles* tribute band!" We just think they're cool...

Stephen Daultrey

Q&A PETER BERKMAN - LEAD SONGWRITER / GUITARIST

Do you hear 'gaming' comparisons from journalists, like "Hey, they're what Mario would sound like if he was a superstar DJ"?

Yeah, "Mario at a rave" floats around a bit. We secretly grumble because videogames aren't our main inspiration and I think there's more depth to our music. It's pretty annoying.

Shit, I think I may need to reword my album review... Um, your new disc has 22 tracks. That's generous.

We actually cut it down from 45. Friends and potential labels were all saying it's too much music to put out in one go, and that no one has time for 22 songs. But it's what we felt like doing. I don't think people have time for 10 songs these days either. I'd just advise not to listen to it in one go.

What's the tech involved in making music using a NES (Nintendo Entertainment System) chip?

There's free sequencer software that programs in a language that the NES can understand. The NES has five sound outputs, and we craft instruments for each of those. We then export that data onto a chip, which is then put inside a cartridge and played through the console. We modified our NES to make it sound better, like giving it stereo control and stopping it from making a loud 'pop' whenever it's switched on, which was horrific when playing live. **You also play live instruments. Are those pumped through the NES?** No, they're separate. We play live instruments along with the music that

we've created with the NES. On the new record we also use 16-bit samples, which provide higher quality. For that we use another program, which is designed more for PC games.

Would you consider yourself a NES gamer - or even a retro gamer?

When I first started making 'chiptune' music I became super-insane about them. I got my brother's old NES and, in between making music with my friends, we'd play *Mega Man 2* and *Contra* while eating lots of doughnuts. We also found some weirder games, which were notoriously terrible or funny. My favourite was *Monster Party* in which you play a little kid who ventures into rooms that hold monsters who say something when you enter. I remember one room that

"GAMES AREN'T OUR
MAIN INSPIRATION,
THERE'S MORE DEPTH"

MORE NEW SHIT!

Other Bizarre must-hears

STRANGER BY STARLIGHT

CHALK WHITE NIGHTS



OUT NOW

We've heard many sad albums – in fact we *love* melancholia – but we haven't

encountered many records quite as moribund as this strange, desolate brew of jazz, ambient and nocturnal prog. By way of comparison, the spectral yowls of singer Eugene Robinson (also of Oxbow) make Nick Cave sound like a Butlin's entertainer getting folks to do 'The Birdie Song'.

PLACEBO

LOUD LIKE LOVE



OUT NOW

It's hard to believe that Brian Molko, Placebo's man-pixie, is now 40-years-old.

More ponderous is imagining this Dorian Gray figure with any signs of aging, such as excessive nostril hair. However, his band's seventh album generally sounds more relaxed and grown-up, despite the lyric: "My computer thinks I'm gay" ('Too Many Friends'), which is just weird.

DE STAAT

'L_CON'



OUT NOW

This Dutch five-piece are hailed as "one of the most exciting, undiscovered gems in

European music". We couldn't agree more. Their kooky art rock should be holding pride of place on iPods all the way from Stoke-on-Trent to Timbuktu. If you dig dEUS, Mike Patton and Nick Cave, you'll love its macabre rhythms, danceable riffs and weird sounds.

SATAN'S SATYRS

WILD BEYOND BELIEF



OUT NOW

Call us lazy bastards, but we're sitting this review out due to an inability to describe

this album any better than its press release does: "A ripping deluge of blasphemous scuzz-rock workouts" from a bunch of Virginian biker dudes inspired by "VHS horror movies, weed, sixties Rolling Stones and Black Flag". We'll just add that they must also be fans of Venom because they sound like them too.

had a spider, and this spider says: "I'm already dead". Instead of fighting it, you just stand there. You also fight monsters by hitting baseballs at them.

Do you still play many games, and are these exclusively retro?

I haven't had time recently. I'm not specifically into retro games, I just like games with a strong aesthetic sense of themselves. I'm not interested in *Halo* on Xbox 360, I prefer games such as *Journey* for PS3 that have incredible moods. There's this Japanese game called *Katamari Damacy* where you roll things up into a ball. Its music makes sense with the visuals and the visuals make sense of the gameplay. It takes you to another world.

We know *Katamari Damacy* almost too well, believe it or not. What's your all-time favourite game?

The Legend Of Zelda: Majora's Mask on N64, which is the one *Zelda* game

that's totally different from the rest. You're basically trying to prevent the apocalypse in different ways by repeating the same three days over and over. It's like the film *Groundhog Day*. It's beautiful and incredible.

One of my favourite pieces of music ever is the soundtrack to the 1987 videogame *Platoon*, which was also on the NES. Do you know that one?

Yeah, I love it. But my favourite chip composer is a British guy called Tim Follin. He composed the soundtrack for the *Silver Surfer* on the NES. The game sucks – I've only played it once, but I've listened to the soundtrack 100 times. It's fucking insane what he managed to do on that system.

Are you actually influenced by game soundtracks, do you research much beyond what you're playing?

We're more influenced by pop, dance and punk music than videogame stuff,

but every now and again I'll hear a track in a videogame that inspires me, but more from a technical perspective. For example, the *Mega Man* soundtrack tries to emulate real rock music. The developer created sounds that sounded like a guitar, and delay and reverb effects. I learned a lot from that in terms of techniques and demonstrating how you can overcome limitations.

You did the music to the 2010 *Scott Pilgrim* videogame (which was lots of fun by the way).

Do you now receive many game soundtrack offers?

Scott Pilgrim was a cool experience, but we only did it because it really fitted our style. It has this Kevin Smith / John Hughes-y kind of world with a romantic backdrop, indie music and a videogame theme. That's our style, so we did it.

DRAGON'S CROWN



Rarely has there been a better-suited game for *Bizarre*. This spectacular boobs 'n' blades romp is supremely stylish... and overtly 'sexy time'

OUT NOW, PS3, PS VITA

RATHER DELICIOUSLY, THE gratuitous female flesh displayed in *Dragon's Crown* has attracted a King's banquet of controversy. The big win, as far as we're concerned, is that this has been widely overlooked because the game is unquestionably awesome.

Front and centre is the mouth-watering artwork of George Kamitani, founder and director of development studio Vanillaware. If the visual style looks familiar to our hardcore gaming readers, the team also produced fantasy-themed

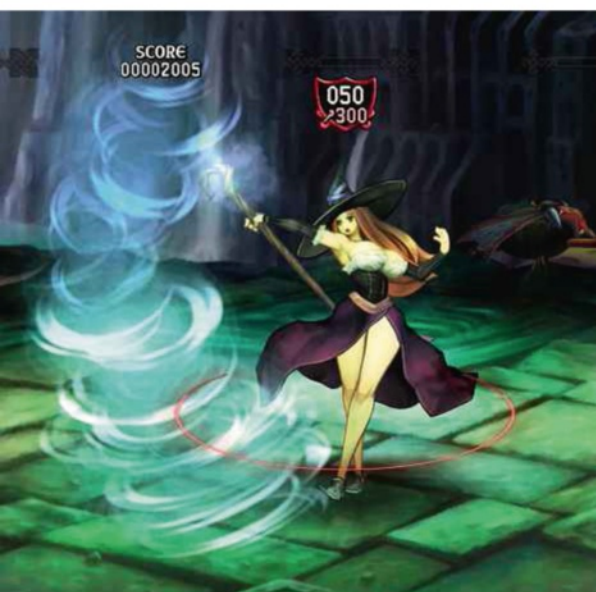
beat-'em-ups *Odin Sphere* and *Grim Grimoire* for PlayStation 2. *Dragon's Crown* is Vanillaware's booty-full debut on the far sexier PlayStation 3 and PlayStation Vita.

This is fundamentally a left-to-right scrolling brawler, akin to the 1990s classics from genre-masters Capcom (*Magic Sword*, *Knights Of The Round*). The twist is an in-depth character upgrade system that uses role-playing experience points to upgrade character strengths and weapons / magic capabilities for more insane fireworks.

The pleasure here is all in the detail, whether admiring the clutching animation of hands that fly from a deadly fireball in pursuit, or mastering a particularly tricky command combo requiring double-direction taps and strict button timing.

While core gameplay is linear, the structure is freeform in that players choose quests appropriate to class and rank from a Guild Master. There's support for up to four-players, so you can balance a team chosen from six archetypes to take on tougher challenges. Bottom line: gorgeous *Dragon's Crown* royally ruleth!





**MORE GAMES
THIS WAY!**

DIABLO III

Meet the new daddy of
dungeons and dragons
on current consoles

OUT NOW, PS3, XBOX 360

IF YOU WANNA TAKE YOUR

dungeon-crawling depravity to diabolical new depths, only one place to look this month (and for the rest of your youth, depending...). *Diablo III* for the current generation consoles is a modified version of last year's problematic PC edition, and is all the greater for it – streamlined control among the factors contributing to an all-round better experience.

As much as the PC guys wish to emphasise the stat-heavy strategy oriented glory of *Diablo*, the basic theme is battling demons. And for this, direct control – à la *God Of War* and *Dante's Inferno* – is an instant win.

That said, the five character classes offer reasons for repeat play-through because their strengths and weaknesses are so pronounced; the acrobatic demon hunter is the showboating ultimate, after cutting your teeth with the barbarian. But it's how your enemies feel so very alive that is the most amazing factor.



RAYMAN LEGENDS

Zingier than a caravan full
of alt.models brandishing
bagfuls of cola bottles

OUT NOW, PS3, PS VITA, PC, XBOX 360, WII U

OKAY, SO THIS LOOKS LIKE CHILD'S

play, but as any gamer should know, beneath the frivolous façade lays a challenge to torment the most skilled.

Without wanting to second-guess anyone's taste, the wonder of gaming is often down to admiring the imagination and ingenuity of artists and designers. In *Rayman Legends*, this is a textbook example of how a kids' goofy-time treat can double up as a perfectly legal (and comparatively inexpensive) mind fuck.

Rayman Legends plays out like fantasy adventures that existed beyond the ken of classic fairy tale authors, combining every *Super Mario* trope that ever existed with the unique genius of Ubisoft's team under (also legendary) Michel Ancel.

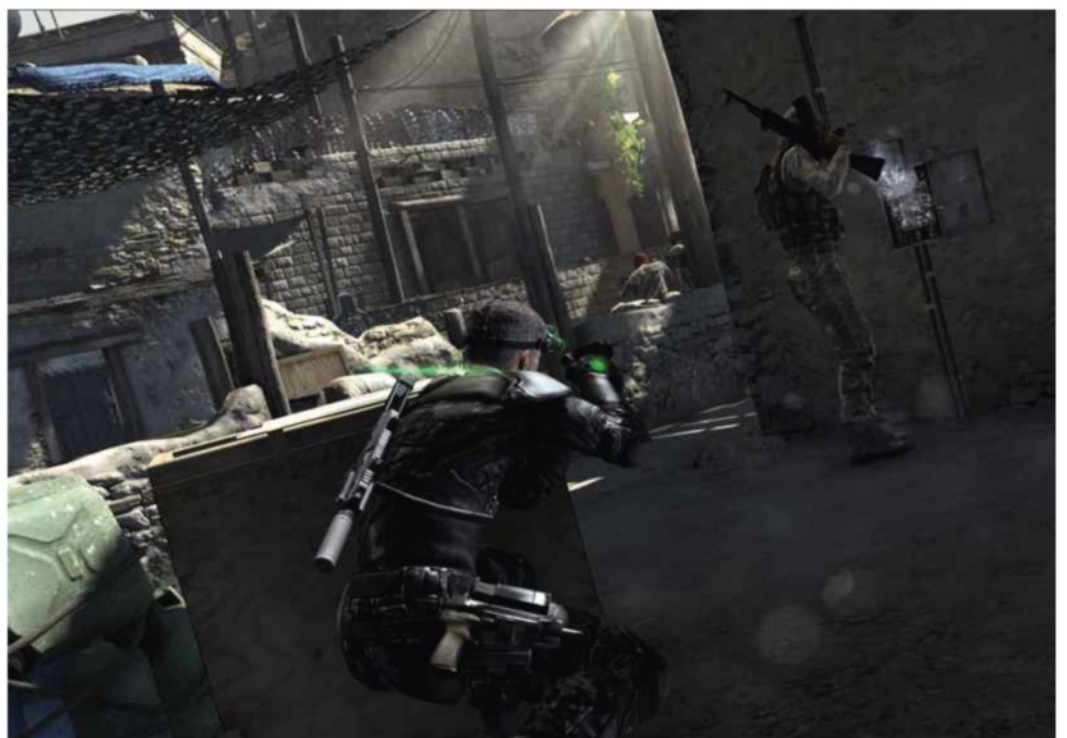




SPLINTER CELL BLACKLIST

In form action-hero excels when going super dark

OUT NOW, PS3, XBOX 360, PC, WII U
AFTER SPLINTER CELL CONVICTION strayed admirably too far from the fanbase ideal, sneaky lead protagonist Sam Fisher is well and truly back in *Blacklist*. This is a welcome return to the constant piano-wire tension from the origins of the series laid out in 2002. In a way, Fisher has absorbed many cool traits of the videogame heroes he inspired – including, we dare we say, Batman from Warner Bros' ace *Arkham* series. The emphasis is now heavily on staying out of sight, though the 'mark and execute' manoeuvre is still in place – surveying a scene before wading in guns a-blazin'. *Bizarre* is also pleased to see the return of 'Spies vs. Mercs' multiplayer mode.



TRUE CRIME

DETECTIVE MAGAZINES 1924-1969

Strange mysteries from pulp's golden past

ERIC GODTLAND & DIAN HANSON
OUT OCTOBER 1



PULPY OLD CRIME
mags have featured in *Bizarre* many times, but we're chuffed to include them again now that publishers

Taschen – grand masters of large, weighty art books – have produced a new paperback exploring the genre's golden years. Filled with voyeuristic cover art of mobsters, sinister femme fatales and women bound in chairs, plus crazy headlines such as 'I Strip At Stags', it's worthy of investigation under any detective's magnifying glass.



ABOVE: *Startling Detective Adventures*, July 1930
BELOW: *Homicide Detective*, November 1956

George Gross
original 1950



ANNO DRACULA: JOHNNY ALUCARD

Suck on this...

KIM NEWMAN
OUT NOW



KIM NEWMAN'S Gothically-gripping *Anno Dracula* series presents an alternate reality where Count Dracula was real and married Queen Victoria! The fourth book sees bloodsuckers roll up in modern New York, and re-imagines Francis Ford Coppola and Andy Warhol making their *Dracula* films which are based on a supposed 'real' Bram Stoker novel. If that makes sense. (Well, it will if you buy the book, you cheapskate...)

Q&A WITH KIM NEWMAN
AUTHOR OF ANNO DRACULA

In your fictional reality of *Anno Dracula*, Bram Stoker's *Dracula* novel is obviously perceived to be based on real events...

Yes, I have done this weird thing of creating an alternate version of Stoker's *Dracula* story, but have also included Stoker's novel inside that. In *Johnny Alucard*, various film directors are

adapting his tale as well as the events that took place in my earlier stories. It's all very corridors of mirrors-y.

***Johnny Alucard* is your first novel to explore Stoker's work in detail...**

In the first *Anno Dracula* book Bram Stoker is locked away in a concentration camp for writing *Dracula* because the book was deemed scurrilous (Dracula had enslaved Victorian England at the time, so probably took exception to Stoker's 'biography'). But I hadn't dealt with Stoker's novel properly until *Johnny Alucard*. With this novel, I wanted to explore all the ghosts of *Dracula* that exist in popular culture, from films to cereal boxes to political cartoons.

Was it fun supposing how Coppola would shoot *Bram Stoker's Dracula* in the 1970s instead of the 90s, with Martin Sheen and Marlon Brando?

Yes, I loved making that stuff up, especially because I'm also a movie critic. I picked people who really did make film versions of *Dracula*, but who also created versions of *Dracula* that



incorporated parts of themselves. Ever since FW Murnau made *Nosferatu* in 1922, there's been something about the story of *Dracula* that eats anyone who works on it. But *Dracula* doesn't just eat people, he changes them... he turns them into creatures of the night. Warhol's friends used to call him 'Drella', which is a combination of *Dracula* and *Cinderella*. Well, he certainly looked pale.

Do you know whether any of the celebrities or (living) historical figures you include in the tales have read them?

One of my friends is Martin Sheen's lawyer, so he may have mentioned it to him, but I don't know if Coppola has read it. I'm tactful when using living characters. I tend to only use people who I admire. These books are fantasy, so I'm not saying any of these things happened and this is what those people are really like.

Have you ever visited Transylvania?

No, and I only went to Whitby this year, which is the other famous *Dracula* destination. I have been to the Castle of Elizabeth Bathory in the Carpathians in Slovakia, so I've been to that part of the world, just not Transylvania... yet. The people who have been tell me they didn't have a great time.

CURIOUS BEASTS: ANIMAL PRINTS FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Freaky goats and rampaging rhinos

ALISON E WRIGHT
OUT NOW



WITH ITS MACABRE exhibitions, spectacular exhibits and unrivalled history, London's British Museum ranks as one

of our favourite educational places in the Western hemisphere. Given its incredible collections, it's only fitting that they should publish rather great books, too.

Featuring illustrations, art works and historical studies from the Museum's expansive archives, *Curious Beasts* examines how artists interpreted the animal kingdom from the 15th to the 19th centuries – a period when studies into the natural world owed as much to people's imaginations and wonder as it did to scientific understanding. The prints in this book range from startling and biblical (Hieronymus Wierix's 'Jonah Cast Into The Sea') to satirical (Goya's 'Neither More Nor Less') via the weird ('The Monstrous Pig Of Landser' by Albrecht Dürer). It's a delight for anyone with left-field interests in zoological history and anatomical illustration.



VAMPIRE CULTURE

Studying England's
nocturnal finest

MARIA MELLINS
OUT NOW



DESPITE BEING

a sober academic study rather than some lurid collection of posery neck-nibbler photos, *Vampire Culture* presents a concise but insightful case for people who adopt vampirism as a lifestyle. With its focus specifically on groups of Londoners who wear fangs and hang out at graveyard events, this unique book is fantastic if you're studying sociology, culture or media, and fascinating even if you're not.



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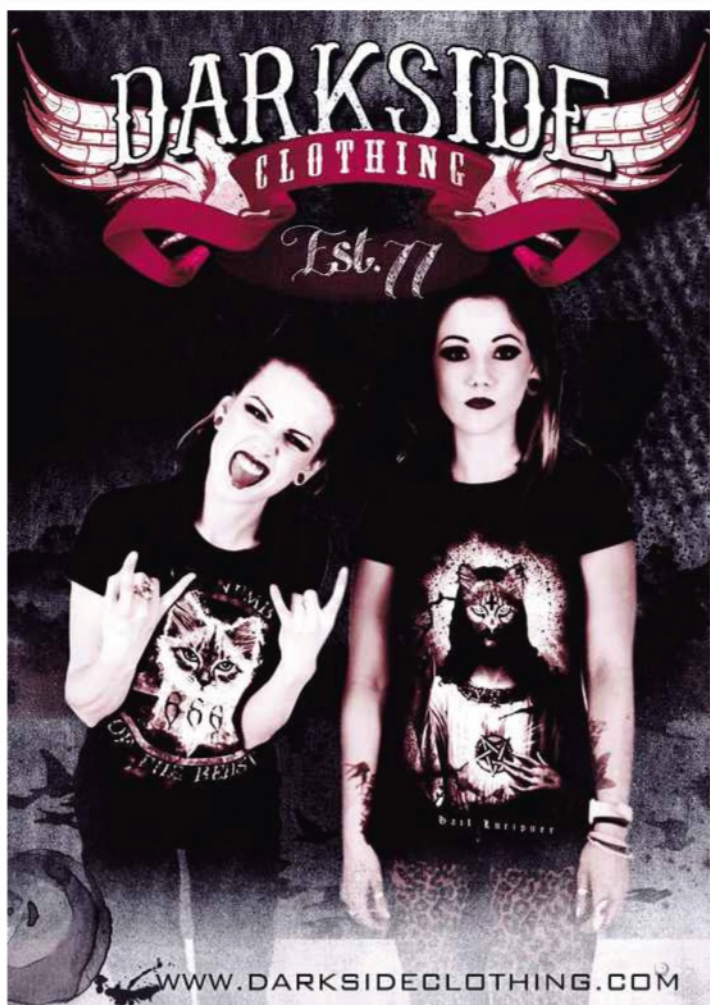


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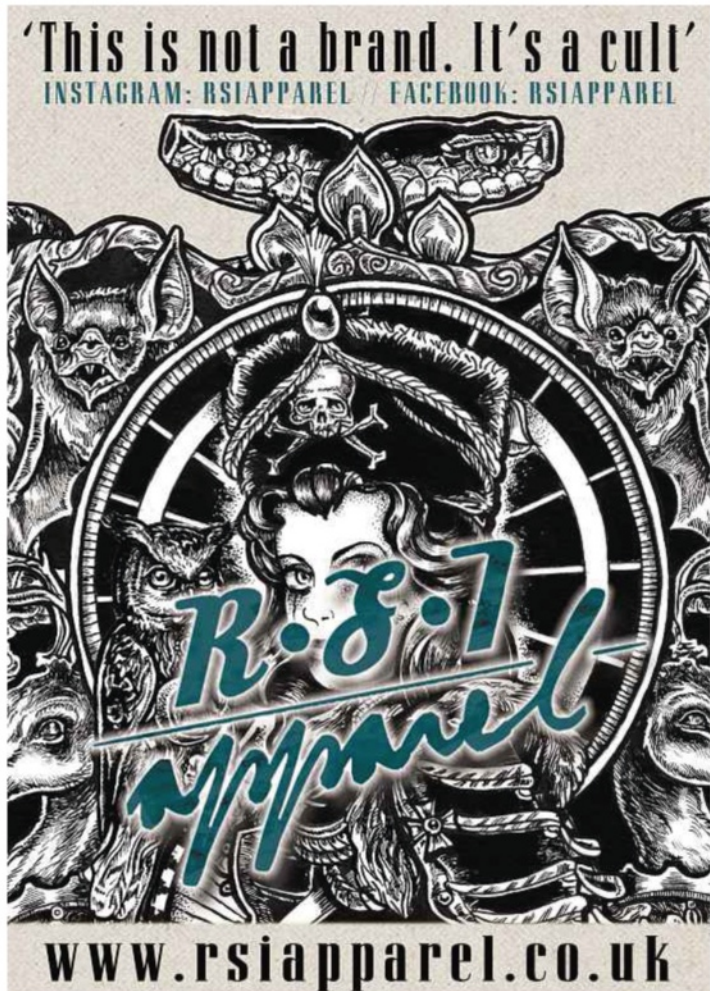
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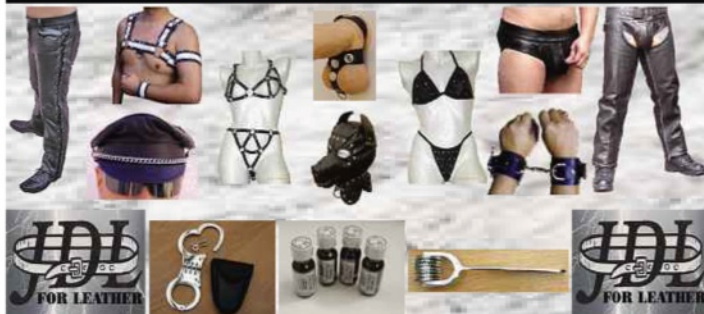
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